

**DAY 3: FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 2024**

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR K. O. ADEBOWALE, *mni, FAS, fspsp* AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION TO MASTER'S DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 2024**

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

Provosts of the College of Medicine and of the Postgraduate College

Deans of Faculties and of Students

Directors of Institutes and Centres

Heads of Departments

Members of Senate

Members of Congregation

President and members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association

Students' Union Executives

Members of the Students' Representative Council

Honoured Graduands

Parents and Guardians of our Graduands

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great delight that I welcome you all to the third day of our five-day convocation programme. Today, we are celebrating the admission into Higher Degrees of Master and Master of Philosophy Degrees. I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our parents, guardians, esteemed guests, well-wishers, and alumni, as we gather to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the University of Ibadan. This year's celebration is particularly special as it marks the conclusion of our one-year 75th Anniversary commemoration, which began in September of last year. Today's convocation ceremony is the first day for admitting graduands from the Faculties of Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Law, Public Health, Dentistry and Economics & Management

Sciences to the Degree of Masters and Master of Philosophy Degrees. These graduands have undergone years of rigorous academic training, emerging victorious from the tests of endurance and proving themselves worthy in both character and learning.

I am especially pleased to celebrate with the graduands of today and to share in the joy of your families as you reach this significant milestone in your academic journey. As I mentioned yesterday, it is my sincere hope that you will go on to make a positive impact in the various sectors of Nigeria's economy, addressing the complex challenges that our nation faces as it strives for growth and development.

### **Postgraduate Education**

University of Ibadan, through its Postgraduate College, has consistently maintained excellence in postgraduate education and research, producing the highest number of higher-level manpower in Nigeria and indeed, in West Africa. In furtherance of this laudable objective, our postgraduate College has, over the years organized series of interdisciplinary discourse delivered by distinguished

personalities from the academic and the business worlds, both within and outside Nigeria, to share experience with the University of Ibadan on the broad theme of Education and National Development. This is in addition to the several workshops and seminars funded by the Postgraduate College to produce quality manpower needed to drive development in Nigeria. This is supported by the large number of Ph.D degrees in different disciplines that would be awarded on Monday.

The Postgraduate College has also continued to be a major driving force in our desire to transform into a research and postgraduate institution.

At this juncture, I wish to reiterate that the vision of the University is anchored on the pursuit of the national goals of development through knowledge creation and dissemination, with a view to promoting national transformation. The realization of this vision is reflected in our commitment to the continuous development of teaching, learning and research programmes that would provide the required skills for internalizing the development process and

to serve as catalyst for the political, social and economic development of the nation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, today, 1,982 graduands will be receiving their higher degrees from six faculties: Arts, Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Public Health and Law. This figure comprises 12 candidates for M.Phil, 1,887 Academic Master's Degree, 37 Professional Master's Degree and 46 candidates for Postgraduate Diplomas.

A further breakdown of 2,450 Academic Master Degrees to be awarded shows that 253 are candidates from the Faculties of Arts, 424 from Science; 95 from Basic Medical Sciences; 48 from Clinical Sciences; 214 from Public Health; 1 from Institute of Child Health; 33 from the Institute of African Studies; 12 from the University of Ibadan School of Business and 7 from Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

At this occasion, I would like to mention just a few of our achievements in academic and sustainable development in the past one year. It is my pleasure to inform you that some

of our staff and students have continued to distinguish themselves both nationally and internationally through their remarkable contributions to knowledge. Some of these are as follows:

Prof. S. A. Fagbemi of the Department of Public Law was conferred with the Fellowship of the International Society for Development and Sustainability, a Japan-based International Scientific and Educational Organisation dedicated to promoting science and practice in all aspects of environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability, on 10 March, 2024.

Professor O. O. Adelowo of the Department of Microbiology was awarded a grant by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) on the project titled: "Monitoring and Controlling Antibiotic Resistance in Low and Middle-Income Countries (Moco AMR). The project is scheduled to run from 2023 to 2027.

Modupe Roseline Agunbiade, a Doctoral Student in the Department of English, won the Best Student Abstract Award

at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Pragmatics Conference held at the University of Ibadan from 19 to 21 February, 2024.

The Department of Mathematics organized the Workshop on Equivalent Method in Differential and Algebraic Geometry in collaboration with Isaac Newton Institute of the University of Cambridge, UK, from 8 to 12 January, 2024. The Department also hosted the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Nigerian Mathematical Society from 7 to 10 May, 2024.

Professor Olajumoke Morenikeji of the Department of Zoology received the North American Pangolin Consortium (NAPL) grant for the project titled "Production of a Compound Feed for the Conservation of Whale-Bellied Pangolin (*Pharginus Tricuspis*)". She was also awarded a grant by the Chicago Zoological Society (Chicago Board of Trade Endangered Species Fund) for the project "Pangolin Rehabilitation, Conservation and Habitat Protection" in collaboration with Pangolin Conservation Guild Nigeria and One Health and Development Initiative (2023-2024).

The Snake Venomics and Antivenomics Research Group led by Dr Adeyi (Principal Investigator) and Dr Afolayan (Co-Principal Investigator) won the 2023 TETFund NRF Research Grant for the Development of drug-based Multi-potent Antivenom against Nigerian Snakes.

Dr Chiaka Anumudu of the Department of Zoology won the International Bursary Award to participate at the Hydra Conference on Parasitic Helminths themed “New Perspectives in Biology and Infection” held on the Island of Hydra in Greece from 1 to 6 September, 2024.

Dr Habibat Oladosu-Uthman of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies utilised a Fellowship at the Bayreuth Academy of Advanced African Studies (BA) of the Bayreuth University, Germany for a research from February to July, 2024.

Professor J.I. Anetor was appointed Chair of the Task Force on the Environmental Impact of Laboratory Medicine (TF-EILM) in March 2024. He was also elected a Fellow of the



Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria on August 27, 2024.

### **Acknowledgement of Benefactions**

The University of Ibadan has received and continued to receive tremendous goodwill and benefactions, which are listed separately in the order of Proceedings. We express our heartfelt appreciation to all these benefactors and pray that the good Lord will continue to bless you and all your endeavours.

### **Closing**

As I conclude, I wish to once again extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduands today. Your achievement is a testament to your perseverance and dedication. Having earned a postgraduate degree in this era, you are now entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to the revitalization of our nation's economy and society. With the knowledge and skills you have gained, I urge you to be creative, innovative, and courageous in applying them to the challenges that lie ahead. Be proud ambassadors of this University, no matter where life takes you.

May the Almighty grant you safe journeys as you return to your various destinations. Thank you for your attention.

**Professor K. O. Adebowale**, *mni, FAS, fspsp*

*Vice Chancellor*