

DAY 6: MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2025

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR KAYODE OYEBODE ADEBOWALE, *mni*, FAS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2025 CONVOCATION, 77TH FOUNDATION DAY CEREMONY, AWARD OF DOCTORATE DEGREES AND CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN AND PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY, LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE INCLUDING HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE - PAULESI ON MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2025.

The Visitor to the University of Ibadan, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Oyo State, Engineer Seyi Makinde.

The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa.

The Chancellor of the University, His Eminence Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, III, CFR, mni, the Sultan of Sokoto

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University, Chief Bisi Akande, CON;

His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, the Ooni of Ife.

His Imperial Majesty, Oba Akeem Abimbola Owoade, the Alaafin of Oyo

His Imperial Majesty, Oba Rasheed Adewolu Ladoja, the Olubadan of Ibadanland.

Other Royal Fathers present

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu.

Her Excellency, Professor, Commissioner, Human Resource, Science and Technology, African Union Commission.

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Members of the Governing Council

Vice Chancellors of other Universities

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

General Officer Commanding 2 Mechanized Division, Nigerian Army, Ibadan

Commissioner of Police, Oyo State Command

Director, State Security Services
Provost, College of Medicine
Provost of the Postgraduate College
Deans of Faculties, and of Students
Director, PAULESI,
Directors of Institutes and Centres
Members of Senate
Members of Congregation
Heads of Departments
President & Members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association
Members of the University Community
Celebrated Graduands of Today
Gentlemen of the Press
Ladies and Gentlemen

With immense joy, I welcome everyone to the University of Ibadan. We gather to celebrate the 77th Foundation Day Ceremony of the University of Ibadan which is exactly today, 17 November, 2025, and Convocation for admission to Doctorate Degrees of the University and PAULESI as well as the award of Honorary Degrees to deserving individuals.

I heartily welcome our Visitor, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, *GCFR*. We wish His Excellency strength, good health and wisdom to continue to guide the nation towards global prominence and prosperity.

I also warmly welcome His Excellency, the Governor of Oyo State, Engineer Seyi Makinde, who has been supportive of the University in many ways. I heartily welcome the Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa and the Minister of State for Education, Professor Suwaiba Said Ahmad.

I wish to express my appreciation to Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) a dedicated supporter of higher education in Nigeria.

I am delighted to welcome our Chancellor, His Eminence Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, III, CFR, *mni*, the Sultan of Sokoto, who has been a great pillar of support to our University.

May I use this opportunity to welcome our royal and imperial fathers, especially, His Royal Majesty, Oba Rasheed Adewolu Ladoja, the Olubadan of Ibadanland, I congratulate you most heartily on your ascension to the throne of your fore-bearers; long may you reign and may Ibadan continue to soar unto enviable heights in your time. I also welcome in a profound manner, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, the Ooni of Ife and the Alaafin of Oyo, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Akeem Abimbola Owoade and all our other revered and royal fathers. We thank you most sincerely for the cordial relationship between “Town and Gown”.

It is a delight to welcome colleague Vice-Chancellors and Registrars from other Universities, former Vice Chancellors and retirees from this University, members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association, Captains of industries and all other invited guests.

I recognise and welcome my colleagues who have been committed in investing time and energy to nurture, guide, mentor, sharpen the skills, research focus and ability of today’s graduands. I also welcome and congratulate parents, guardians, families and friends of our graduands. Your financial investment, support and commitment in ensuring the completion of the respective programmes of today’s graduands are well appreciated.

APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

We can say with conviction that the University of Ibadan has quality and respected Nigerians as members of its Governing Council. We wish to again express deep appreciation to the Federal Government for the inauguration of the Governing Councils of all Federal Institutions.

We are proud to showcase our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Chief Bisi Akande, CON, and the entire members of Council. We thank the Pro-Chancellor for his guidance, sterling leadership qualities, and for the outstanding roles he has played in the University of Ibadan project since the inauguration of the current Council in April last year. Obviously and without mincing words, the University of Ibadan has continued to take giant strides in the right direction with his counsel and exemplary leadership. It is noteworthy that Chief Akande had directed that allowances due to him as Pro-chancellor be kept in an account to be disbursed to the best undergraduates in the Sciences as scholarship awards. This is quite laudable, and we can only but sincerely say a big thank you.

This will be a good avenue to thank all internal and external members of Council, without whose support, commitment and cooperation, our activities as management would have been simply impossible. I am grateful to you all.

Second are my colleagues in management: the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Peter Olamakinde Olapegba, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Juwon Tunde Arotiba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships) Professor Yemisi Bamgbose, the Registrar, Mr. Ganiyu Oke Saliu, the Bursar, Mr. Adewuyi Popoola, the University Librarian, Dr. Mercy O. Iroaganachi, the Provosts of the College of Medicine and of the Postgraduate College, Professor T.O. Ogundiran and Professor A.S.O. Ogunjuyigbe and their deputies, all Deans and Directors, Heads of Academic Departments, Master/Mistresses and Wardens of Student Halls of Residence, Chairmen and members of various Committees of Council and Senate. I recognise your dedication and assiduousness in making the University of Ibadan to maintain its place in the comity of Universities, and also to move higher on the rungs of the ladder of excellence. I say thank you.

I am grateful and appreciate the support all staff of the Registry, the Bursary, Library, Internal Audit, Academic Planning, University Health Services, Centres and Institutes, the Works and Maintenance Department, the Physical Planning Directorate, and the Security Unit. The four Staff Unions, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), and the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) also deserve commendation for their support and cooperation. I equally appreciate the Student Union, under the leadership of Mr. Covenant Odedele.

CHARGE TO THE GRADUANDS

I felicitate with and offer hearty congratulations to all the graduands of today. I rejoice with you all for reaching this significant milestone in your pursuit of higher education. The journey indeed has been arduous, yet today you stand triumphant, with hearts bursting with feelings of fulfilment. You have obtained the Doctor of Philosophy in your various disciplines from one of the most reputable universities in the world. In other words, you are philosophers, thinkers and solution providers. The society awaits you to apply your skills to solve the multifaceted challenges that it presently grapples with. I want you to see this as a call to turn your knowledge to expertise and provide the solutions for which the society yearns.

The worth of a University degree is in the industry, learning and character that the holder of that degree displays on a daily basis from the moment of obtaining the degree. It is also in the humane character expressed by the holder in a world that is aching. This is why we cannot overemphasise the importance of your daily conduct once you step out of this hall today. I encourage you to be ethical, humane, and yet courageous in your different professions and field of endeavours.

Remember that University of Ibadan awards her certificates to graduands who have been adjudged to have excelled in character and in learning. You have upon the completion of your Ph.D programmes suddenly become Rising Stars visible for all to see. The world watches you keenly and assesses your action and inaction. People would easily overlook the moral failings of a bachelor's degree holder if such a person displays improper judgement; they might reluctantly overlook the slips of the holder of the degree of Master. However, it would be difficult for them to explain, ignore or pardon the misconduct or improper judgment by the holders of the highest academic degree possible. It is even of greater concern when the degree comes from a University like ours whose generations of graduates have been known for good conduct and sound moral judgement. Our confidence, however, is that anyone who successfully navigated the rigours and demands of doctoral education in the University of Ibadan, should have been endowed with all that it takes to be quintessential and exemplary in every ramification of all that is good and of good report.

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Management has not relented in its efforts to ensure that the University of Ibadan continues to be an avant-garde and a trail blazer in higher education development of the nation. This is the reason the University of Ibadan has been able to retain its position as the pacesetter and University of first choice in training of high level manpower. Our goal is to increase the number of PhD outputs every academic session. Much resources have been invested in our Faculties for quality pedagogy and production of quality researchers, by establishing an enduring academic tradition which we have diligently sustained and consistently enhanced from time to time to meet current world challenges.

With regards to our Undergraduate programmes, I am elated to report to this gathering, that, the Senate of the University has given approval for the creation of two additional Faculties: Faculty of Nursing and Faculty of Computing. Approval also was given for

the Department of Aeronautics and Aerospace Engineering in the Faculty of Technology. The University presented 57 programmes for accreditation out of which 54 received full accreditation and 3: Law, Business Education and Crop & Horticultural Science programmes got interim accreditation. The University also presented and got NUC approval to start B. Sc. Social Work, B.Ed Educational Technology, B. Sc. Ed. Computer Science and B.Eng. Biomedical Engineering in the 2025/0226 session. Moving further, we have presented the B. Sc. Pharmacology Programme and four programmes in the Faculty of Computing: B.Sc Software Engineering, B.Sc. Data Science, B. Sc. Cyber Security and B.Sc. Information and Communication Technology to complement the B.Sc Computer Science already available to NUC for Resource Verification, preliminary to accreditation. It is heartening, also, to give information concerning the Completion of Curriculum on Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) at the University of Ibadan School of Business (UISB), approval at Senate and take off of the programme in our Department of Business, Entrepreneurship and Executive Education.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday, 13 November, a total of 5,900 graduands received the Bachelor's Degrees in the various disciplines across all our Faculties, the Distance Learning Centre and our Affiliated Institutions, from this, 448 graduated with First Class (Honours). On Friday, 14 and Saturday 15 November, a total of 22 candidates were awarded Master of Philosophy; 2,690 earned academic Degree of Master, while 273 candidates were awarded Professional Degree of Master. In addition to these, 124 Postgraduate Diplomas were awarded. Also, 73 Masters students from PAULESI (Pan African University, Life and Earth Sciences Institute including Health and Agriculture) graduated on Saturday, 15 November, 2025.

Today, 487 candidates, from the various disciplines would be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The Faculty of Education stands on top of the list with a total of 137 Doctoral graduands, followed by the Faculty of Arts with 72 graduands. The others are:

Faculty of Science— 58

Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences – 9

Faculty of Agriculture – 26

Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources – 24
 Faculty of Clinical Sciences – 4
 Faculty of Public Health – 13
 Faculty of The Social Sciences – 41
 Faculty of Technology – 20
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine -7
 Faculty of Law - 7
 Institute of Education – 7
 Faculty of Pharmacy – 8
 Institute of African Studies –9
 Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences – 3
 Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies – 37
 Environmental Design and Management – 4
 Institute of Child Health – 1

Award of Honorary Degrees

Honorary degrees will be conferred on three deserving individuals for their outstanding contributions to Higher Education in Nigeria. They are:

1. Professor Philip. Ozuah, MD, Ph.D.
2. Barrister Aigboje Ihedero-Aig-Imoukhuede, FCIB, CFR
3. Dr. Adesola Kazeem Adeduntan, Founder and President, Sequoia Financial Services Limited.

THE PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE (PAULESI)

The Pan African University (PAU) is an initiative of African Union aimed at revitalizing higher education, and innovation across Africa. Part of the objectives is to establish world-class graduate Institutions for higher education and research, foster innovation and accelerate Africa's social and economic development. It also aims at producing highly skilled professionals and researchers who can tackle African's developmental challenges. Nigeria is proud to host PAULESI which is allotted to West Africa, and University of Ibadan is elated to have the PAULESI domiciled on its grounds, which is a testament to UI's status as a trailblazer and a globally recognised University. Furthermore, UI is proud that an alumnus and a member of staff, a distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy in the person of Professor Mubo A.

Sonibare is the incumbent substantive Director of PAULESI. Today, 33 students of the Institute will be awarded Doctor of Philosophy degrees across the various programs of the Institute.

RANKING

In general, inadequate funding continues to pose the greatest challenge to the Nigerian University system and the University of Ibadan is not exempted from this reality. Yet despite this significant challenge, I am pleased to report that our University continues to distinguish itself as the leading Institution in the nation and in West Africa. In the global University rankings, the University of Ibadan has demonstrated progress this year. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University ranking 2026 published in June 2025 saw UI emerging as the top University in Nigeria. Just in October, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 placed UI as the best (1st) in Nigeria and in the 801–1000 global band, out of 2,191 Universities assessed across 115 countries. The rankings evaluated institutions based on 18 performance indicators grouped under five key categories: *teaching, research environment, research quality, industry engagement, and international outlook*.

This achievement attests to the foresight, commitment and hard-work of successive Vice-Chancellors, administrations and staff. It is thus a fitting occasion to extend heartfelt congratulations to the University's dedicated and focused Faculty, Senate, Governing Council and other stakeholders in the University of Ibadan project whose collective efforts have brought about this remarkable success.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Management has remained committed to staff development and welfare, providing financial support to facilitate attendance at local and international conferences, seminars, and workshops.

As a way of motivation to deserving members of staff, meetings of the Appointments and Promotions Committees held regularly from October 2024 till date. A total of one hundred and seventy (170) academic staff were promoted, which was made up of 68 Full Professors, 66 Readers, 18 Senior Lecturers and 18 Lecturer Grade I, while a total of three hundred and thirty-eight (338) senior non-academic staff were promoted as well as thirty-two (32) Junior Staff.

STUDENT MATTERS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I make bold to say that one area in which we have remained steadfast and uncompromising is in our commitment to imparting knowledge to our students. As a demonstration of the solid knowledge they have acquired, several of our students had received invitations to participate in International competitions, where they had made Nigeria proud and in particular, the University of Ibadan.

The following are some of the heart-warming prowesses achieved by our students.

- Ten undergraduate students from the Faculty of Nursing came first in the Golden Lamp Leadership Initiative African Research Challenge held in September, 2025, while another ten (10) have been selected for the final round of 2025 cycle in Lagos, Nigeria.
- Abigail O. Oyedokun, a 600-Level MBBS student, won the best oral presentation at the Advancing Medical Education Conference held on on 30 March, 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Ahmed Saheed Olaide, a student from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine won the World Veterinary Association Global Veterinary Award. He was named Veterinary Student of the Year.
- Adebayo Adewunmi, a 500 Level student of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has been named one of the twelve recipients across Africa to receive the highly competitive MSD/WDA Veterinary Student Scholarship.
- Miss Temidayo M. Adebisi from the Faculty of Nursing was the recipient of the Data Science Africa fellowship award to Advance Women's Health (DSAWH) for 2025 Cohort.
- Oluwafemi Olajumoke Mercy, a 400 Level Biochemistry student, received the 2024/2025 EOOI Scholarship in the United States of America.
- Gladys FuroDalanbo, an M.Sc Biochemistry student, won a Thomas-Bassir Biomedical Foundation Seed Grant.
- In SAI-powered Distinction Quizathon, organized by FlexiSAF, which drew over 6,000 participants from more than 200 Nigerian tertiary institutions, Daniel Adesanya, a 500-level Petroleum Engineering student, emerged 1st place, securing a ₦1,000,000 prize, Barnabas Oluwasegun and a 200-level Medicine and Surgery, got the 3rd place and ₦500,000.
- A 200-level medical student, Abayomi Elijah Olutayo, clinched 2nd place in the National Campus Challenge held on May 10, 2025, with a cash prize of ₦150,000.
- This year, our team of three students Abdulmuiz Olamilekan ABDULLATEEF, 500 Level Industrial & Production Engineering; Tijesuni Samuel MOSES, 500 Level

Electrical/Electronic Engineering; and Abdilmumeen Abiodun BALOGUN, Petroleum Engineering, led by Rufus O. Adisa as Instructor emerged as the first prize winner in the Cloud Computing category of the 2024/2025 Huawei ICT Competition Global Final in China. The competition attracted more than 170,000 students from over 2,000 universities and colleges from over 80 countries. More than 160 teams, totaling 470 contestants from 49 different countries and regions. This was no mean accomplishment, given the digital disparity between Africa and the rest of the world.

- Several other students won prestigious fellowships and scholarships from institutions like Harvard, King's College London, and Data Science Africa all within the year 2025.
- Mr Olawale Emmanuel Sunmonu, one of our M. Sc. students was awarded the Presidential Award for outstanding performance during his N.Y.S.C. service to the nation in 2021. He served in Kano State. He was decorated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja on July 29, 2025.
- Our contingent clinched third place at the 2025 FASU 3x3 Basketball Championship in held at Mekerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

We have sustained a cordial and mutually respectful relationship with our students, under the leadership of Mr. Covenant Odedele. On this note, we commend the tireless efforts of the Dean of Students, Professor Demola Lewis and Deputy Dean, Dr. Aiki Raji.

CAMPUS SECURITY

Security challenges have emerged as a major topic of discussion and a significant source of concern over the past years. This underscores why Management has remained resolute and unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding lives and property on the main and other campuses. Among the several methods adopted was enlisting the assistance of the Oyo State Police Command to support the University Security Unit in order to ensure continued safety and security on our campuses.

As a result, incidents of security breaches have significantly declined, and a sense of safety prevails across our campuses. In this regard, we must express our profound appreciation to the Chairman, Council Committee on Security, Professor S. G. Jonathan, for the commendable effort of his committee. The administration is committed to providing the necessary support to the Security Unit to sustain the progress achieved in securing the campuses.

OUR CHALLENGES

In this address, I have highlighted our progress and achievement. However, there are a number of challenges we still contend with as an institution.

One of such challenge is the issue of power supply, as a substantial portion of our resources is expended on powering the University. With the recent developments in the power sector, our monthly electricity bill has more than doubled what it used to be. The University had been categorised as a Band A, user. To mitigate the power challenge, this administration will explore alternative sources of energy. Management has opened communication with the Federal Ministry of Power on this issue. On this quest, I plead with stakeholders to kindly support the University with all means at their disposal.

Other challenges the University grapples with include internet connectivity, maintenance of existing buildings and infrastructure, given the age of University of Ibadan and the growing need for expansion.

I use this platform to appreciate Mr. President for his interventions targeted at revamping Institutions of higher learning. I however passionately plead with Mr. President that the University of Ibadan deserves to be accorded special priority through dedicated reconstruction and rehabilitation funds, along with increased allocations. As the oldest University and a treasured Academic Heritage of all Nigerians, the University of Ibadan deserves a special status that guarantees adequate support and resources to transform it into global destination for academic and intellectual excellence. As the intellectual capital of Nigeria, the University of Ibadan will not relent in continuing to shape and influence development across other Universities.

SOME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONOURS

At this point, I humbly wish to share with you some of our outstanding achievements and honours since the last Convocation ceremonies of 2024.

- 🏆 Professor Oyedunni S. Arulogun of the Department of Health Promotion and Education was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Chrisland University in November, 2024.
- 🏆 Professor Mubo A. Sonibare was appointed as the 3rd substantive Director of PAULESI (Pan African University Life and Earth Sciences Institute (Health and Agriculture)
- 🏆 Professor O. J. Babayemi of the Department of Animal Science was appointed Vice-Chancellor, new Federal University of Agriculture & Technology, Okeho.

-  Professor S. B. Olaleye – Dept. of Physiology and Deputy Provost, College of Medicine, Professor T. A. Lawal – Dept. of Surgery and Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Professor O. G. Arinola – Department of Immunology were elected as Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FAMedS) in 2025.
-  Prof. J. I. Anetor of the Department of Chemical Pathology and Prof. O. G. Arinola of the Department of Immunology were elected Fellows of the Nigerian Academy of Science.
-  Professor E. O. Ewuola was appointed Vice-Chairman, National Committee of Standard Organisation of Nigeria on Animal feeding, feeds and feedstuff.
-  Professor Olufunke E. Ola-Davies was appointed a member of the Council on International Veterinary Medical Education (CIVME) of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) representing Africa and Middle-East/ North Africa (MENA).
-  Professors O. Gureje, M. O. Owolabi, R. O. Akinyemi, T. A. Lawal and 62 others were listed among the world's top 2% of scientists for the year 2024-2025.
-  Professor M. O. Owolabi was elected Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (FTWAS) effective 1 January, 2025.
-  Professor A. A. Odukogbe was conferred with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG), United Kingdom.
-  Professor Stella O. Odebode was selected as an AWARD Policy Fellow (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) in recognition of her leadership roles in gender-responsive agricultural systems.
-  Professor Oluwatoyin A. Odeku of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was elected Fellow of the African Academy of Science
-  Professor Iruka N. Okeke was appointed Fellow, American Academy of Microbiology
-  Professor Omonike O. Ogbole, Dr. Osisanwo A. Adekinle and Dr. Akinsete A. Tolulope won the prestigious Georg Forster Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany for the year 2024.
-  Dr. Iyanuoluwa O. Ojo from our Faculty of Nursing was a recipient of the several Research Fellowship Awards including; International Clinical Research Scholars Program in Ethiopia, Addis Abba 2025 Cohort, Fellowship Award by King's College Residential Program in the United Kingdom.
-  Dr. Ekundayo Samuel was re-elected as President, Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN)

- ✚ The highest professional honour in legal profession - Senior Advocate of Nigeria was conferred on two of our alumni, Oluseun Awonuga and Bidemi Ademola Bello from the Faculty of Law.
- ✚ The 1995 MBBS/BDS Class celebrated second Homecoming and Reunion from 18-21 September, 2025
- ✚ Professor Olatunji Alabi Oyeshile, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and a Professor of Philosophy was nominated to present the 2025 annual public lecture on UNESCO World Philosophy Day. Prof. Oyeshile's public Lecture is entitled "Human and Cultural Diversities and the Reconciliation of the Self with the Other"
- ✚ The Faculty of Dentistry celebrated its 50th anniversary marking five decades of excellence, growth and impactful service to our community and the global society.
- ✚ Dr. O. O. Dosumu of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences won a 3-year tuition scholarship at Mahindol University, Thailand.
- ✚ Dr. Olufunke Akin-Ajani of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences became a Postdoctoral Fellow, Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation Research Group Linkage Grant, Freie Universitat, Berlin, Germany for the 2024 – 2025.
- ✚ Chinwe Ofudi of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was inducted into Guadalupe Fellowship, Coimbra Group Scholarship for Young Researchers.
- ✚ Full Accreditation of Bachelor of Dental Surgery Programme in December 2024
- ✚ Prof. Folake B. Lawal was Newly Elected as a Fellow; Medical Specialists of the Nigeria Academy of Medicine
- ✚ Dr. H. O. Aisagbonhi of the Department of Health Policy and Management won the Golden Pen Award of the Academic Writers Academy (Cohort 5) organized by the Academic and Grant Writing Enclave (AGE) in April, 2025.
- ✚ The University of Ibadan Health Services hosted the 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Directors of Health Services of Nigerian Universities in July, 2025. The theme was University Health Services; Past, Present and Future.
- ✚ The University Health Services organizes Wellness health check for staff.
- ✚ Production of written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all units in the UHS.
- ✚ Creation of new Fruits & Veggies Palace outlets and healthy living kitchen in the UHS.
- ✚ Acquisition of new Electrolyte analyzer as well as increased and improved laboratory services in the UHS.
- ✚ The Department of Sustainability Studies organized the 16th annual Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS) in August, 2025
- ✚ TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Security Management (TECESM) held its second Distinguished Personality Lecture titled "Global Fragility and Security Management in Nigeria" delivered by General C. G. Musa on 24 July, 2025.

- ✚ The Department of Soil Resources Management won a 3-year research collaboration with the Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China.
- ✚ Donation of Laboratory and Field Equipment worth N55 Thousand US Dollars to the Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management by the African Union.
- ✚ Dr. Abidemi Babatunde Babalola, an alumna of the University from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology is one of the 9 winners of 2025 Dan David Prize which is the highest prize honour globally to scholars in historical studies.
- ✚ Hosting of the first female Professor of Physics in Africa: an alumna of the University of Ibadan - Professor Deborah Enilo Ajakaiye on 26 June, 2025.
- ✚ The University Network Infrastructure expanded to the fifth phase from four-phased ICT by adding Ajibode Campus Extension.
- ✚ eLearning/BlendedLearning: The University through its eLearning Committee successfully engaged fresh undergraduates admitted to 2024/2025 academic session in 6-week virtual lectures between 17 February and 28 March, 2025.
- ✚ Automation of NELFund Loan Refund process - The automation of the NELFund Loan Refund process was implemented to streamline refund operations, minimize manual intervention, and ensure timely disbursement of funds to students who have paid in part or fully before the NElfund loan approval. This initiative enhances transparency, improves accuracy, and aligns with broader efforts to digitise financial workflows within the institution.
- ✚ DIGITISED POCKET STATISTICS – in conjunction with the Academic Planning Unit, ITeMS have digitized the latest edition of the pocket statistics, dubbed ‘Infostatistics’
- ✚ The University Media Centre continues to grow its audience on Diamond FM 101.1 and UITV on YouTube with what currently stands at 1.4k subscribers. Recently, the University provided two A7iii Sony Cameras with 35mm Prime lenses to enhance the operations of the Unit.
- ✚ Launching of the Business Compass Magazine by MBA Students Association (MBASA) of the UI School of Business (UISB) in conjunction with the Department of Business, Entrepreneurship and Executive Education (DBEEE).
- ✚ Hosting of the International collaborative workshop between De Montfort University (DMU), National Center for Technology Management (NACETEM), Leicester and University of Ibadan School of Business (UISB) with the theme: ‘Teaching to Thrive: the power of Entrepreneurship Education for youth empowerment on 22nd April, 2025.
- ✚ Expansion of Agribusiness hub consisting of the Fish and poultry value chains (Layers, Broilers production) and Crops (yam and maize) value chains by UISB students.
- ✚ Establishment of Premier Capacity Development Academy (PCDA) offering courses on Digital Mobile Photography and Fashion Business. Also, Certification in professional courses on

Project Management, Executive Marketing Research, Customers Success & Business Productivity, Accounting for Managers, Data and ERP Management, Human Resources Management, Cybersecurity and Business, Business Analytics and Executive Communication Management.

- ✚ Construction of UISB Relaxation spot for students, sit out area and tuckshop
- ✚ Inauguration of UISB mini-transport shuttle (Tricycle)
- ✚ Mr. Oluwole Dada, Deputy Registrar, Office of the Vice-Chancellor was appointed pioneer Registrar of the newly established Federal University of Technology and Environmental Sciences (FUTES), Iyin-Ekiti in March, 2025.
- ✚ Mrs. Olufunmilayo O. Omisore from our Internal Audit Department, College of Medicine was elected the Chairman of Ibadan and District Society of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) in June, 2025
- ✚ Engr. Ayokunnu O. Ojedele from our Department of Works and Maintenance elected as Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Ibadan Branch with effect from 01 September, 2025

COMMISSIONED PROJECTS

The following are some of the completed projects which had been commissioned since the last convocation programme:

- Philip Ozuah Block, a one-hundred and seventy-six (176) bed-space hostel was commissioned at the College of Medicine
- Mobile Truck Clinic, HPV Molecular Laboratory and Research Hub donated by the HPV Consortium, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.
- Suraj Adesina Central Laboratory donated to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by Late Dr. Suraj Adesina and Alhaja Aminat Adesina.
- Ultra-modern Veterinary Digital X-Ray for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
- Borehole for Veterinary Anatomy Laboratory
- PiLAF Building at the Faculty of Agriculture
- Extension Building of the Departments of Forest Production & Products and Social & Environmental Forestry.
- Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Digital ICT Park. The state-of-the-art facility, handed over to the University on June 10, 2025.
- Sir (Dr.) Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu KAAAF Lounge in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine worth a sum of N10 Million.

MAJOR BENEFACTIONS

The University of Ibadan has continued to receive generous goodwill and benefactions from numerous individuals, groups and corporate organisations. I use this opportunity to once again express heartfelt appreciation to all our benefactors, both private and corporate, who have, at various times, extended hands of support to the University through contributions in cash and in kind. The University has acknowledged in writing, the various donations and awards. May God bless you all.

- Six outstanding UI students in the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Microbiology, Zoology benefitted from Pro Chancellor Chief Bisi Akande, CON Scholarship Foundation
- Scholarship of 1.8 Million naira granted to 5 indigent students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by Dr. Croydon Pet Hospital, Maryland, USA.
- Dr. John C. Aniemeke, a 2005 BDS Alumnus endowed the sum of Eleven Million Naira (N11, 000, 000.00), to be awarded to 10 best graduating students in the various Departments in the Faculty of Dentistry.
- Also, Dr. Hakeem Ajao, a 2001 BDS Alumni endowed the sum of Two Million Naira (N2, 000, 000.00) to be awarded to the best graduating student in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Endowment of the sum of Two Million Naira only (N2,000,000:00) only by the children of Late Mojisola Ajoke Adelokun in honour of their late mother, an alumna of the University
- N100 Million donated to the University of Ibadan by the University of Ibadan Endowment Fund to support the University activities.
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine received a donation of the sum of N20 Million from Dr. Musa Alasa, Chief Executive Officer, Adamore Nigeria Limited towards the rehabilitation and painting of the Pathology Building in the Faculty.
- Engineering Babatunde Adesola, an alumnus of Kuti Hall, sponsored the exterior painting of all the hall blocks (Blocks A, B, C, D, and E) in Kuti Hall which worth the sum of N20 Million.
- Alumni Class 84 July Set of Faculty of Pharmacy donated the sum of N6.6 Million to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences towards the renovation of Classrooms.
- Sir (Dr.) Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu donated a sum of N10 Million to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine towards the completion of the KAAAF Lounge in the Faculty.
- Dr. Zachaeus A. Adedeji donated Office Furniture which cost the sum of N20 Million to the Department of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Studies, Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies.
- Independence Hall received the sum of Ten Million, Four Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira from Mr. Victor Etiokwu for the reconstruction of Maracana Football Pitch.
- Mr Gbadega Adedapo, CEO/MD, Accessible Publishers donated facilities and equipment worth the sum of N14 Million to the Faculty of Education.

- Peugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited donated a Changan, model Alsvin 2012 made by Peugeot Automobile Nigeria with registration number Kaduna MKA 849 AH to the Department of Automotive Engineering.
- His Excellency, Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu, Former Governor of Bauchi State, donated a Toyota Camry to the Department of Quantity Surveying.
- Department of Health Policy and Management received a donation of Solar Inverter System worth the sum of N18.7 Million from Dr. Sola Akande.
- Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management received Laboratory and Field Equipment worth the sum of \$55,000 from the African Union
- Archbishop Daniel Okoh, President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) donated and installed eight (8) Batteries and eight (8) 1,5KVA Inverters worth N4.5 Million to eight offices of Academic Staff of the Department of Religious Studies.
- Ibadan College of Medicine Alumni Association Class of 1995 donated a Solar Power Inverter System worth the sum of Nine Million, Six Hundred and Sixty Thousand Naira to E (Male) Block of Alexander Brown Hall, College of Medicine
- Her Excellency, Dr. Olayemi Abiodun-Oyebanji, First Lady of Ekiti State donated the sum of N5 Million to the Queen Idia Hall and sponsoring the printing of one hundred copies of lecture book during Idia Hall 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Students Affairs Division of the University received a sum N2.5 Million from GOLDLINK Insurance Company to support the Work Study Scheme.
- Class of 1988 Alumni of the then Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry donated two sets of 17HP Land Tiller with complete accessories and a Slasher worth the sum of N3 Million to the Faculty of Agriculture.
- Ibadan North Local Government under the Chairmanship of Honourable Oluwaseun Onifade donated a Borehole and 2.7 KVA Elepaq Generator to Abadina Community in the University.
- Renovations at the Institute of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Institute (IMNCH), College of Medicine, University of Ibadan to the tune of N12,797,182.53K by HPV Consortium of which Professor I. O. Morhason-Bello is the Principal Investigator.
- Furnishing of Head, Department of Educational Management Office by Dr. Olayemi J. Abiodun-Oyebamiji, a lecturer at the Department and Wife of the Executive Governor of Ekiti State.
- Provision of Ethyimethane sulphonate for plant genetic research and support to the Tissue Culture Laboratory in the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology by Mr. Abdul, Malik Oduola, an alumnus of the Department.
- Donation of one unit of screenhouse (8m x 15m) to the Department of Crop Production and Environmental Biology by Dr. ArinzeChukwu Uzoechina
- Donation of 200 customised T-Shirts and award plaques to the Zoological Garden for all participating schools at World Animal Day Celebration by the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG)
- Re-roofing and painting of the outside foyer of the Zoological Garden by Snow Trust Ventures Limited
- Donation of two educational billboards to the Zoological Garden by Mr, Nathaniel Owolawi, Department of Wildlife and Ecotourism

- Donation of a live Yellow Billed Kite to the Department of Zoological Garden by Mr. Ipatunola Oluwaseun

The University of Ibadan Business School received the donation of 10 dozen bouquet chairs to complement the existing facilities to enhance teaching and learning from the following:

- Professor M.O. Oyinlola
- Professor A.O. Adewuyi
- Professor S.O. Adedeji
- Dr. Awobode
- Dr. Siyanbola Omitoyin
- Mr. Olawale Kadri
- MBA Student Association
- Ecology and Environmental Biology Laboratory Building to the Department of Zoology with respect to the 75th birthday anniversary of HRH Oba (Professor) A. T. Hassan by the CEO, Nathan Pryce Limited Mrs. Bola Olajomi-Otubu.
- 3.0KVA inverter, 4 solar panels and 2- No 12V100ah batteries to Department of Zoology by Hon. Dr (Mrs.) Olaitan Victor.
- 6.5KVA inverter, 4 solar panels and 4 batteries to Department of Zoology by Mr. Olanrewaju Adeogun.
- Ergonomic Chair (1) for Academic Staff valued at N300, 000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) by Mr. Adewale Fatade to the Department of Zoology.
- Motorcycle valued at N500, 000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) by Prof. Aina O. Adeogun, FAS, (Head, Department of Zoology) and Mr. Adebajo Osunderu (an alumnus of the University donated N50,000 out of the N500, 000).
- 3 Ergonomic chairs for Academic Staff at the Department of Zoology valued at N1, 000,000 (One Million Naira) by Mr. Godwin Okonkwo.
- Donation of a 10-kwh lithium battery with 5kva/48v solar powered inverter system worth One Million, One Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand Naira only N4143, 000:00 to the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry by Alhaji F. A. Afolabi.
- Donation of a sum of Three Hundred Thousand Naira only towards the upgrade of solar power system in the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry by Mr. A. Awofiranye.
- Donation of a sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira only towards the upgrade of solar power system in the Department of Social and Environmental Forestry by Dr. A. Y. Adeleke.
- Donation of a 10-kwh lithium battery with 7.5 kva solar powered inverter system to provide alternative power supply to the newly commissioned building of the Departments of Forest Production & Products and Social & Environmental Forestry by Dr. Fatai Agboola Afolabi, an alumnus of the Department of Forest Production and Products.
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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

S/N	ITEM DONATED	NAME AND THE INSTITUTION OF DONOR (S)
1	(a) <i>Enclaves of Exception: Special Economic Zones and Extractive practices in Nigeria</i>, by Omolade Adunbi (2022), Indiana: Indiana University press. (b) <i>Typologies of humour in African literatures</i> by Adwoa A, Opoku-Agyemang (2024) Michigan University of Michigan. (c) <i>Lagos Never Spoils: Nollywood and Nigerian City Life</i>. 2023. By Connor Ryan. Michigan: University of Michigan Press. (d) A portable AC Power Supply (Power Bank) with 100W AC outlet, 98wh/27000Ah with 65W PD USB-C. (e) CiBest Mini Projector, Full HD 1080P Support Video Projector with LED Technology for movies and presentations with capacity for HDMI, USB etc.	Professor Omolade Adunbi Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS) and Honours Programme, College of Literature, Science, and Arts at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. He is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar to Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan.
2	<i>Handbook of Pleistocene Archaeology of Africa: Hominin Behaviour, Geography, and Chronology Volume 1 & 2</i> by Amanuel Beyin et al. (2023). Springer	(a) Amanuel Beyin Department of Anthropology and Centre for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage. University of Louisville (b) David K. Institute of Archaeology, Conservation and History University of Oslo, Norway.
3	(a) Lightbox in 3-D scanning (b) Object Turner for 3D Scanning.	Craig Stevens, a Ph.D student of Northwestern University, USA, who visited Nigeria for fieldwork, and a 4-day research in the departmental museum of Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, focusing on photometry and 3D documentation. While in the department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Stevens worked with four of our students, thereby building their capacity in photometry and 3D Documentation.
4	Donation of #280, 000 (two hundred and eighty thousand Naira only) for the purchase and installation of an iron door at the Construction Room, at the	Professor Akin Ogundiran, Professor of History, Cardiss Collins Professor of Arts and Sciences, and courtesy Professor

	Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, and for electrical repairs in the room.	of Anthropology and of Black Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
5	Donation of the sum of #150, 000 (One fifty thousand Naira only) for the rehabilitation of the staircase leading to the workroom and store.	Mr Abdulmalik Abdullrahman Abdulmalik, a Ph.D student at the university of East Anglia, UK (and an alumnus of the department), facilitated by Professor Alabi

➤ AFD Grant for ICT Development Project

In addition to the above, the University of Ibadan has been selected as one of ten universities across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones to receive the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) grant worth about \$3 Million (Three Million US Dollars) for implementation of the *Blueprint-ICT Development (ICT-Dev) Project* within the Nigerian University System. This milestone project aims to revitalize ICT infrastructure and strengthen capacity across selected institutions, serving as a transformative blueprint for ICT advancement in Nigerian higher education.

OBITUARY

I wish to commiserate with the families of some of our serving/retired members of staff and students who passed on since the last Convocation ceremony.

They are:

1. Professor Anthony Youdeowei, a retired Professor in the Department of Agricultural Biology and former Acting Vice-Chancellor passed away on 05 September, 2025
2. Professor Adebayo Amos Omoloye of the Department of Entomology Unit of the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology passed away on 25 April, 2025
3. Professor Briggs Chinkata Nzotta, a retired professor in the Department of Library, Archival & Information Studies passed away on 2 January, 2025
4. Professor G. A. T. Ogundipe, a retired professor in the Department of Veterinary Public Health & Preventive Medicine passed away on 20 January, 2025
5. Professor Idowu Peter Farai, a retired professor in the Department of Physics passed away on 18 April, 2025.
6. Professor J. A. Oluyemi, a retired professor in the Department of Animal Science passed away on 14 April, 2025.
7. Professor Israel Opeolu Osokoya, a retired professor in the then Department of Teacher Education passed away on 27 March, 2025
8. Professor (Mrs) Margaret Adebisi Sowunmi, a retired professor in the Department of Archaeology passed away on 28 April, 2025.

9. Professor Joseph a. O. Olugbuyiro, a visiting professor in the department of Pharmacognosy & Herbal Medicine passed away on 11 May, 2025.
10. Professor Benjamin Olakunle Fagbemi, a retired professor in the Department of Parasitology & Entomology passed away on 11 May, 2025
11. Professor Johnson Ola Anifalaje, a retired professor in the defunct Department of Private and Business and former Dean of Faculty of Law passed away on 4 July, 2025.
12. Emerita Professor Grace O. Taylor, a retired professor in the Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences passed away on 8 July, 2025
13. Professor Emeritus Benjamin Ohiomamhe Elugbe, a retired professor in the Department of Linguistics & African Languages, Faculty of Arts passed away on 24 May, 2025.
14. Professor G. O. Oguntomisin, a retired Professor and former Acting Head, Department of History passed away on 06 October, 2025
15. Professor Mac Aderele Araromi, a former Director, Institute of Education passed away on 24 August, 2025.
16. Professor Hassan Tijani-Eniola of the Department of Horticultural Science passed away on 27 August, 2025
17. Mr. Vincent O. Agbekorede of the Kenneth Dike Library passed away on 10 January, 2025
18. Engineer T. O. Y. Omotosho, Director, Faculty of Technology Consultancy Services passed away on 20 January, 2025
19. Mr. A. I. Olowu of the Faculty of Agriculture passed away on 17 January, 2025.
20. Mrs. Florence A. Adurota of the Department of Science & Technology Education passed away on 11 February, 2025.
21. Dr. (Mrs.) Christianah Adeola Adeyoju of the Institute of Education passed away on 28 March, 2025
22. Mr. Ilemobayo Emmanuel Oluwaseun, a 300 level student in the Department of Archaeology & anthropology passed away on 16 May, 2025
23. Mrs. AJayi Foluke, a Supervisory staff of the Independence Hall passed away 24 April, 2025.
24. Mr. Oyetunbi Daniel Akinyele of the Campus Safety Unit passed away on 28 June, 2025.
25. Mrs Oluwatoyin Kemi Oladapo, a postgraduate student in the Department of Religious Studies passed away on 24 May, 2025
26. Mrs. Adetola Abike Adebayo of the Campus Safety Unit passed away on 31 July, 2025
27. Dr. J. O. Ogunbiyi of the Department of Estate Management passed away on 02 August, 2025
28. Mrs. Temitope Tawakalit Lawal of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture passed away on 22 September, 2025
29. Dr. Elizabeth B. Bolajoko of the Department of Chemical Pathology passed away on 06 April, 2025
30. Dr. Patience Sotunmbi, a retired Reader in the Department of Anaesthesia passed away on 27 September, 2025

31. Mr. Adeniyi Ishola Aderinokun of the Department Crop Protection and Environmental Biology passed away on 02 October, 2025.

May these ones who have gone ahead of us continue to rest in peace, and may the Almighty continue to comfort their loved ones.

CONCLUSION

With a heart swelling with gratitude, I express immense and deep appreciate to all critical stakeholders in the Ibadan Project, and that includes everyone here. Your support, encouragement and goodwill have been pivotal to the successes recorded in the past years and more significantly in the year under review. I stand to assure this gathering that with the continued support of all, the University will press on to set higher standards and advance its path of excellence in teaching and cutting-edge research, with a focus on providing solutions to societal challenges. We will not relent in our efforts but will persist in implementing strategic measures to sustain our lead within the Nigerian University System and in the global academic landscape.

Thank you and God bless you.

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

Vice-Chancellor

**PAN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY
LIFE AND EARTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE
(INCLUDING HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE)
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN**

1.0 Introduction

Convocation marks not just a celebration of academic achievement, but also a reflection on the remarkable journey of our Institute, a journey defined by resilience, growth, and shared commitment to excellence.

2.0 Special Recognitions

Heartfelt congratulations is extended to the Visitor of PAU, His Excellency Joao Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola (AU Chairperson). We are confident that your leadership will inspire growth, integrity and excellence across the PAU. We also celebrate the newly appointed Commissioner of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI), His Excellency Professor Gaspard Banyankimbona, whose vision and commitment to educational development in Africa will undoubtedly shape the future of learning in our Continent. We look forward to working collaboratively to advance our shared goals.

3.0 Our Graduands

This year, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we proudly graduate 106 scholars, 73 Master (M.Sc.) students and 33 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) candidates, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, intellectual rigor and a passion for discovery. These graduates now join the growing ranks of PAULESI alumni, bringing the total number of convoked students to 816, out of the 976 students admitted since inception. This milestone is not just a number, it is a testament to the transformative power of education and the resilience of our academic community.

4.0 Appointment of a New Director for PAULESI

I heartily congratulate the newly appointed Director of PAULESI, Professor Mubo Adeola Sonibare. The assumption of office by the new Director marked a turning point, a renewal of vision, purpose and direction. Since the appointment, the Institute has witnessed a reinvigorated sense of focus and stability.

Mubo Adeola Sonibare is a distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy. She earned her first degree in Botany, from the prestigious University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1992. She subsequently obtained her M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the same University of Ibadan in 1996 and 2003, respectively. Professor Mubo Sonibare specializes in Biodiversity Conservation and Medicinal Plants Research, with expertise in plant tissue culture, standardization, and molecular authentication of medicinal plants.

Prof. Sonibare has over twenty-nine (29) years of teaching and research experience at the university level and has held several administrative positions and served on various committees at the University of Ibadan. Additionally, she served as the Head of the Department of Pharmacognosy and the Programme Coordinator for PAULESI's Master of Science in Medicinal Plants Research and Drug Development from 2020 to 2024.

Prof Sonibare delivered the University of Ibadan 497th Professorial Inaugural Lecture on July 29, 2021, titled "Quest for Sustainable Health Care Provision: Utilization and Misutilization of Our Co-Tenants". Professor Sonibare has received numerous Fellowships including a Research Fellowship at Koishikawa Botanic Gardens, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, Japan (2002), Georg Forster Research fellowship by Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

(2008-2009), University of Ibadan Senate Research Grant, TWAS-UNESCO Associate to University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, Georg Forster Research fellowship further research stay at Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany, Institution Based Research (IBR) TETFUND Grant, Research Group Linkage Programme award by AvH, Germany, DIES International Deans Course award, Germany. She is an active member of many academic and professional bodies, including the Nigerian Society of Pharmacognosy, Botanical Society of Nigeria, American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), Science Association of Nigeria, Academic Society of Functional Foods and Bioactive Compounds. She has served in various leadership capacities, such as the Assistant General Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Pharmacognosy (NSP) and Vice Coordinator of the University of Ibadan branch of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD). Currently, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Journal of Natural Products and Medicine.

Prof. Sonibare is a reviewer of several local and international journals and has served as an external examiner and assessor at the Professorial level for various universities within and outside Nigeria. She has supervised numerous undergraduate and M.Sc. projects and has successfully supervised ten PhD students. Professor Sonibare has made significant contributions to her field, having over 140 articles published in both local and international peer-reviewed journals. She is happily married to Oluwatayo Olatunde Sonibare, a distinguished professor of Organic Geochemistry and the marriage is blessed with three wonderful children.

Professor Mubo A. Sonibare assumed duty as the 3rd substantive Director of the Institute on Monday, 14 April 2025.

5.0 Institutional Milestones and Progress

With the assumption of office by the new Director, the Institute has witnessed remarkable transformation across its academic, administrative and research fronts. These achievements reflect a renewed commitment to excellence, innovation and institutional growth. The following developments highlight the progress recorded under the new leadership:

1) Establishment of an Institute Library: Through the visionary leadership of the Director and the professional guidance of the University Librarian, the Institute has successfully established a functional library. The facility serve as the intellectual hub of the Institute, a space where scholars, researchers and students can access quality academic resources, conduct research and engage in intellectual discourse. The library is furnished with reading tables, chairs, and shelves to ensure a conducive learning environment.

2) Comprehensive Curriculum Review: In line with our drive for academic relevance, PAULESI has embarked on a comprehensive curriculum review of all programmes. This process ensures that our curricula remain responsive to emerging scientific trends, societal needs, and the goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063. The updated curricula will emphasize sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

3) Development of a Robust Research Agenda: The Institute is advancing a structured research agenda aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at addressing critical challenges across Africa's life and earth sciences, including health and agriculture. The overall goal of the PAULESI research agenda is to contribute significantly to the development of Africa through high - quality research, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination. By achieving these goals, PAULESI aims to play a leading role in transforming higher education and research in life and earth sciences on the continent.

4) Leadership Development: PAULESI's collaboration with inspLIFT Global led to a three-day leadership and human capacity development training program. The program was designed to strengthen leadership skills at various levels, focusing on emotional intelligence, supervisory skills, and conflict management. This helps build the capable institutions and transformative leadership needed to achieve Agenda 2063's goals.

5) Investing in Human Capital: PAULESI's very existence, as a center for high-level education and research, aligns with Agenda 2063's goal for a skills revolution underpinned by science, technology, and innovation. By providing quality education and training to African students, PAULESI is nurturing the continent's most valuable resource—its human capital. The institute's AU Club, in collaboration with PAULESI staff, organized educational campus tours which has helped to promote a people-driven development that includes youth and community engagement.

6) Agricultural Development: PAULESI's new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Society of Underutilized Legumes in 2025 demonstrates a commitment to research and development of underutilized crops. This aligns with Agenda 2063's goal of Modern Agriculture and the African Commodity Strategy flagship project, which seeks to add value to African commodities.

7) Strengthened Relationship with the Host University: Our partnership with the University of Ibadan, our esteemed host institution, has grown stronger. We continue to enjoy robust academic collaboration, shared facilities, and mutual support in research and training. We remain grateful to the University management for their unwavering cooperation and goodwill.

7) Introduction of Student Forum: A platform that fosters open dialogue, feedback and engagement between students and management. Through this forum, students have been able to voice their concerns, contribute ideas and stay informed about developments within the Institute. Many issues that could have disrupted the learning environment have been resolved through constructive communication, demonstrating our shared commitment to continuous improvement.

6.0 Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The institute launched a comprehensive Incubation Program to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and network to turn their ideas into reality. This program includes design thinking sessions, entrepreneurship training, and business development support, with the ultimate goal of starting businesses and generating income. This directly supports the Agenda 2063 goal of Transformed Economies and Job Creation.

7.0 Pan-African Collaboration

Late in 2024, PAULESI hosted the first-ever Pan African University (PAU) International Conference, where scholars from all PAU institutes shared research findings and innovations. This event fostered intellectual engagement and multidisciplinary collaborations, which are crucial for continental integration. The institute's student body, which includes individuals from across Africa, already serves as a "melting pot of African cultures," promoting the pan-African dimension articulated in Agenda 2063. The conference created a platform for knowledge sharing and intellectual interactions among PAU scholars, which is fundamental to building a knowledge-based economy across Africa.

8.0 Community Engagement and Outreach

PAULESI mission extends beyond the walls of academia. As part of our community engagement efforts, PAULESI organised a STEM Showcase for 200 senior secondary school

students from selected schools within the Ibadan metropolis on Friday, 17 October 2025. This initiative aimed to ignite curiosity, inspire innovation and encourage young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The enthusiasm and brilliance displayed by these students reaffirm our belief in the transformative power of outreach and mentorship.

9.0 State of the Art Laboratory

The fully functional Molecular Biology and 3D Laboratories serve as vital centres for advanced research and innovation. The Molecular Biology Lab supports DNA analysis, gene sequencing, and postgraduate research collaborations, while the 3D Lab enables modelling, simulation, and prototype printing. Together, they strengthen PAULESI's capacity for cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research and learning.

10.0 Academic Excellence and Student Achievements

The Institute has made remarkable progress in integrating technology into teaching and learning. The adoption of e-learning platforms and digital resources has broadened access to knowledge, making learning more flexible, interactive, and student-centred. These efforts are part of our broader vision to prepare graduates who are not only knowledgeable but also adaptable, creative, and globally competitive.

PAULESI is witnessing a remarkable surge in student-led research and publications, a clear indicator of the vibrant academic culture within our institute.

11.0 Challenges

While we celebrate our milestones, we must also acknowledge the challenges that have tested our resolve. Like many institutions, we have grappled with limited funding, infrastructural needs and the demands of maintaining quality in a fast-evolving academic environment. The global economic realities have presented additional hurdles, affecting both staff and students.

However, we have not allowed these obstacles to hinder our progress. Instead, they have strengthened our determination to innovate and adapt. Through prudent management, collaboration, and the unwavering support of the African Union Commission (AUC) as well as our stakeholders, we continue to make steady progress toward our vision of excellence.

12.0 Gratitude and Institutional Support

Profound gratitude to the University Management particularly the Vice Chancellor, Professor K.O Adebowale, *mni*, FAS for his tireless effort and unwavering support, in the ongoing endeavour to secure the second phase funding from the Federal Government of Nigeria. This funding is crucial to the Institute's continued growth, as it will enable the advancement of infrastructure, the expansion of academic programmes, and the provision of enhanced support for both students and faculty.

Sincere gratitude to the African Union Commission, the Rector and all members of staff at the Rectorate, our development partners, faculty, staff, alumni and students for their continued support. Together, we are building a world-class institute that truly represents the spirit of Pan-Africanism and scientific excellence.

13.0 Conclusion

PAULESI's activities have demonstrated its alignment with the AU Agenda 2063, specifically the goals related to human capacity development and innovation. The institute's practices serve as a model for how educational and research institutions can contribute to the continent's development blueprint.

