

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER, 2025

**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR KAYODE OYEBODE ADEBOWALE, *FAS, mni* AT
THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF CERTIFICATES,
DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION INTO THE FIRST DEGREE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON WEDNESDAY, 12
NOVEMBER 2025.**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Strategic Partnerships)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

Provost of the College of Medicine

Provost of the Postgraduate College

Deans of Faculties

Dean of Students

Directors of Institutes and Centers

Heads of Departments

Members of Senate

Members of Congregation

President and Members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association

Members of the Students' Representative Council

Our Honoured Graduands

Proud Parents and Guardians

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great joy that I welcome you all to the University of Ibadan, the first and undoubtedly the best, on this special occasion of the second day of the 77th Convocation and Graduation Ceremonies of the University of Ibadan.

I am grateful to Almighty God whose decision it is to preserve us to witness another landmark event in our march towards excellence and greatness.

May I therefore take this opportunity to warmly welcome our guests and well-wishers to this great occasion and to congratulate especially the proud parents and guardians of our graduands, who have come to share the joy of today with their children and wards. I welcome very specially all the teaching and non-teaching staff that God used to nurture our graduands while on campus and at one point or the other.

This year's Convocation has a total of 5,900 graduands from all the Faculties including the Distance Learning Centre and Affiliated Institutions and today marks the graduation of students from the Faculties of Agriculture, The Social Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Technology, Law, Economics & Management Science and Renewable & Natural Resources with 24 students graduating with First Class Honours from the Faculty of Agriculture, 34 from The Social Sciences, 60 from Technology, 28 from Law, 11 from Economics & Management Science and 9 from Renewable Natural Resources.

The graduands of today, more than anyone else deserve our special congratulations on the successful completion of their programmes. You have individually shown resilience by applying yourself to rigorous academic challenges. Expectedly, not everyone with whom you started the programmes together is here present due to one reason or the other. And so, I say, Congratulations.

Today's ceremony marks the culmination of the 77th Anniversary celebration of the University of Ibadan which was established in 1948 as a University College of London. At 77, the University has continued to tower highest through its countless contribution to human capital development, research outputs and community services across the world through its staff both academic and non-teaching, particularly through the quality alumni base. The University of Ibadan alumni are a source of enviable pride.

Ibadan graduates have come to hold key positions everywhere across all human endeavours. The University has shown leadership in staffing, curricula and practice; in administrative services, in professions, such as Teaching, Medicine, Law, Technology, Politics, Business, Corporate world and the Armed Forces to mention but a few.

As we confer degrees upon these accomplished individuals, we proudly unleash a new generation of innovative entrepreneurs, skilled professionals, visionary leaders, and talented change-makers into the world. This joyous occasion transcends academics; it is a vibrant social celebration where people from diverse backgrounds unite to honour the achievements of their own. Graduation day symbolizes: triumph over challenges, realisation of dreams, celebration of resilience, and the beginning of new horizons.

I must commend every parent, guardian and sponsor here who despite the current economic situation in the country, made huge sacrifices by paying fees and other levies for your children. I pray that these sacrifices will not go unrewarded by God and your children. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Permit me to also appreciate the Commencement Speaker at this Day Two Convocation Ceremonies, Mrs. Bola Olajomi-Otubu, MD/CEO Beige Spaces Limited and an alumnus of the University of Ibadan. We thank you for accepting to be the Commencement Speaker and for loving your University.

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

The University of Ibadan like most tertiary institutions in Nigeria is witnessing challenges such as funding constraints, infrastructure deficit and decay, low quality of education in terms of access and affordability, inflation and currency fluctuations; brain drain, strikes and instability, limited resources, inadequate industry-academia collaboration. The list is endless.

However, in navigating these challenges, the University has taken a few short-term approaches which include (but not limited to) public-private partnerships (PPPs), cost-cutting measures, digitalisation (online resources, e-learning) and some industry collaborations (in terms of internships and research).

As Vice Chancellor, I recognise that my role extends beyond leadership to service. My commitment to fostering a culture of academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity remains unwavering. Moving forward, we have prioritized initiatives that enhance our academic programmes, support student and staff well-being, and advance our research endeavours. We will strive to create an environment where every member feels valued, empowered, and inspired.

One of the greatest challenges the University has had to contend with over the years is gross underfunding. Being a public institution, the main source of funding is the allocation from the government which, owing to the prevailing economic situation has increasingly been unable to cater for much of the financial needs. However, the University continues to thrive with a great ray of hope that better days are ahead.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the attendant challenges that trailed academic and administrative activities in 2025, the University has recorded different levels of feats. Although it is impossible, at an occasion like this, to exhaustively report all these achievements, I will mention just a few of them in the course of my speech.

Ranking

I am proud to announce that our University has achieved remarkable milestones in terms of ranking, both nationally and internationally. According to Times Higher Education World University Rankings, University of Ibadan has emerged the best university in Nigeria for the year 2026. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, some of which are the following:

- Kelechi Prudence NWAIGWE came first in the Committee of Deans of Engineering and Technology (CODET) National competition with her final year project on the Development of machine for production of 3D printing filaments from recycled polymer-based materials.
- Boluwatife Oshodi, Chukwuweike Azeh, Department of Mechanical Engineering won first second and third prizes, in a project competition organized for the Department by LEEDS Initiative.
- Peter Gabriel David won the Certificate of Scholarship Award from National Institute of Professional Engineers & Scientists.
- Emmanuel Nasamu, a Ph.D. student of the Department of Mechanical engineering won the 2025 Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Scholarship.
- Professor A.I. Alarape got certified in Cybersecurity with a distinction in July 2025 and became a chartered member of Association of Cybersecurity Practitioners.
- Dr. Mojisola S. Ajayi, D-43 Awardee & Fellow under the Expanded Multidisciplinary NeuroAIDS Research and Training Programme (collaboration between UI and University of Chicago,USA)
- Professor N.A. Shenge: inducted as Associate member of Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), March 2025

- Professor Wale Adebani, Director, Centre for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania, USA endowed a sum of N2.2 million in prize to the Department of Political Science.
- Professor O. J. Babayemi of the Department of Animal Science was appointed Vice-Chancellor, new Federal University of Agriculture & Technology, Okeho.
- Professor E. O. Ewuola was appointed Vice-Chairman, National Committee of Standard Organisation of Nigeria on Animal feeding, feeds and feedstuff.
- The Head, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development was selected as an AWARD Policy Fellow (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) – GRASP Cohort 3, Nairobi, Kenya recognising her well-deserved leadership in gender-responsive agricultural systems.
- In 2025, two alumni of the Faculty of Law, Mr. Oluseun Awonuga and Mr. Bidemi Ifedunni Ademola-Bello were appointed into the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)
- Hon Justice Olukemi Adebo, an alumna of the University was sworn in as a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Ogun State of Nigeria.
- Graduates from the Faculty of Law have continued to raise the bar at Council of Legal Education (the Law School). UI graduates recorded over 97% success rate. At the Bar examination in November 2024, eighteen (18) graduands from the University of Ibadan had first class while fifty-three (53) graduated with Second Class Honour (Upper Division).
- Professor Simisola O. Akintola, Department of Private and Property Law was elected a member of Council and as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships)
- The Department of Crop and Horticultural Sciences acknowledged the benefaction of N10.465million from Alhaji Akande Ayofe and many others that time will not allow a mention.

CHARGE TO THE GRADUANDS

Once again, I say congratulations to you all!

This milestone marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life, where you will leverage the excellence and independence cultivated during your time at the University to forge your unique path.

Choosing University of Ibadan from over 270 Universities in Nigeria was undoubtedly an outstanding decision. As you embark on this new journey, you will encounter diverse challenges, but with astuteness, resilience, and determination, you will overcome them.

As you celebrate, I would like you to note these key takeaways:

- i. **Courage and Resilience:** Be courageous, forthright, and passionate about contributing to Nigeria's development.
- ii. **Drawing on Your Education:** Utilise the skills and knowledge acquired to propel yourself forward, even in uncertain times.
- iii. **Nigeria's Potential:** Believe in Nigeria's rich history and potentials to become one of the world's leading nations.
- iv. **Transformative Impact:** Your education, determination, and resilience will enable you to drive transformative change. Kindly put your education to good use.

I therefore charge you all to go forth, seize every opportunity, lead the change, and claim your rightful place at the top.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, may God Almighty grant you all journey mercies back to your various destinations.

Thank you for your attention.

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

Vice-Chancellor