

DAY 3: THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2025

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR K. O. ADEBOWALE, FAS,
nni AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF CERTIFICATES,
DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION INTO FIRST DEGREES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
IBADAN ON THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2025**

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

Members of the Students' Representative Council

Honoured Graduands

Parents and Guardians of our Graduands

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my distinct honour to welcome you all to the University of Ibadan, the first and the best, on this special occasion of the 77th Convocation and Graduation Ceremonies for admission to First Degrees. 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 Education and Environmental Design & Management with 43 students graduating with First Class (Honours) from Faculty of Education and 2 from Environmental Design & Management.

I use this medium also 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. It is my prayer that the joy of today will know no bounds in your lives. I also welcome all the teaching and non-teaching staff that God has used to as instruments in shaping and nurturing our graduands while on their academic journey here.

Since its establishment in 1948, the University of Ibadan has remained at the forefront of academic excellence, research, and national development. We have continued to produce leaders in academia, politics, governance, science, medicine, technology, literature, and the arts. We are proud of this enduring legacy and remain committed to upholding the values of integrity, merit, and service. The University offers a wide array of programmes across 23 Faculties and is home to Africa's largest postgraduate College.

It is noteworthy that, the University of Ibadan has reclaimed its position as Nigeria's top University in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026, marking a major leap in global academic standing. In a resounding affirmation of its academic excellence, the *University of Ibadan (U.I.)* has been ranked the **best university in Nigeria in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026**. This recognition places U.I. in the **801–1000 bracket globally**, 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*. U.I.'s rise to the top spot is particularly notable given its previous fourth-place position in the 2025 rankings.

This achievement not only re-establishes U.I.'s dominance in Nigeria's higher education landscape, but also reflects broader improvements in its global reputation and research impact. The 2026 Times Higher Education World University Rankings analyzed over **174.9 million citations from 18.7 million research publications**, underscoring the rigorous methodology behind the evaluation. On this, I say Congratulations to every one of us.

Today, we gather not merely to confer Degrees but to celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, sacrifice, resilience, and growth. We honour the journeys that brought each of you to this moment — journeys marked by late nights, early mornings, moments of doubt, resilience and triumphs of discovery.

The graduands of today, more than anyone else, deserve our special congratulations on the successful completion of their programmes. You have individually applied yourself thoroughly to the intensive academic challenges. It is heart-warming to note that in spite of the obvious academic challenges, you have invariably been found to be worthy both in character and learning, hence your graduation today. The University of Ibadan is truly proud of you all!

My Charge

You are the heartbeat of this celebration. You arrived here with dreams, and today you leave with tools to shape the future. Whether you studied medicine, law, engineering, the arts, or the sciences, you are now ambassadors of knowledge, integrity, and innovation.

You graduate into a world that is complex, fast-changing, and often uncertain. But you are not unprepared. You have been forged in the crucible of rigorous scholarship, critical thinking, and the rich diversity of this Institution. You carry with you the legacy of Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Ayo Banjo and countless others who walked these halls before you.

Dear Graduands, as you step out of these gates today, you carry with you the weight of history and the responsibility of the future. The world you are entering is fast-changing, technology-driven, and fiercely competitive. You must therefore embody the values that UI has instilled in you: values of critical thinking, creativity, perseverance, and character.

Let me remind you that your Degree is not just a certificate. It is a call to action. A call to serve, to lead, to question, and to build. Nigeria needs you. Africa needs you. The world needs you. Your certificate is not just a piece of paper; it is a call to leadership, innovation, and service. Go forth and be solution providers. Go forth and prove that Nigerian graduates can compete anywhere in the world. Go forth and be men and women of integrity who uplift communities, industries, and nations.

I charge you to be creative, courageous, enterprising and technologically savvy. Acquire employability and professional skills in addition to your educational prowess. Do not be afraid but be focused and, determined and, Success is yours.

Please note that the University of Ibadan is a spring-board, as well as a call to greater challenges and, aspirations in life. There is no doubt that you will face challenges. Do not allow any

problem to overwhelm you. My sincere prayer to God is to guide your steps to success in life and in all your endeavours. Amen.

To our Faculty and Staff, I say Thank You. Your dedication, mentorship, and tireless pursuit of excellence have shaped the minds we celebrate today. You are the quiet architects of transformation, and your impact will echo far beyond these walls.

At the University of Ibadan, we are not resting on our oars. We are expanding our research frontiers, embracing digital transformation, and strengthening global partnerships. We are committed to producing graduates who are not only employable but indispensable.

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to inform you that members of our academic staff and students continue to make commendable strides in their unrelenting contributions to knowledge in various fields, it is my pleasure to report some of them:

Department of Adult Education

Achievement 2025

- Secured 2 IBR awards within the Department of Adult Education.
- Won. 2 IBR awards through collaborative efforts with Department of Library and Archival Studies and Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Titles of Tertiary Education Trust Fund Institutional Based Research

(TETFund IBR) are:

1. Adaptive Technology Training for Safety of Fruits and Vegetables among Market Retailers in Oyo State.
2. Digital Health Literacy on Mental and Reproductive Health among Women Aged 19-49years in Oyo State: An Exploratory Study.
3. Development and Exploration of the Use of Intelligent Chatbot Mobile App to Enhance Contraceptive (Depo Sub Q Provera 104 Injection-Sayana Press) Uptake among Women in Ibadan.

Department of School Library and Media Technology

1. **Storytelling with the Legends**

The inaugural edition of the event, held on November 23, 2024, was supported by the Reading

Awareness Society for Development in Africa (RASDA), a Non-governmental organisation.

2. World Book Day 2025 Celebration

The Department of School Library and Media Technology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, mobilized students and staff to go round various cities and towns in Nigeria to mark the World Book Day for the year at various schools, including privately owned and public primary and secondary schools.

Pupils were challenged to make reading a daily activity noting that readers are visionary leaders and that reading pave the way to greater and better tomorrow.

- 3. Summer Programme:** The Department held a summer programme for both children and teenagers that are patrons of the Model library in the Department. The programme started on 04 August, 2025 with various activities ranging from storytelling, Drumming, photography, introduction to computer, knitting, introduction to keyboard keys, sports, games, dancing, bottle picking, arts and craft, soap making, baking (Cake, chin chin, puff puff), educational film show and so on. The resource persons were drawn from within and outside the University. It was an interesting time with the children. The programme ended on Friday 29th August, 2025.

Department of Early Childhood and Educational Foundation

Dr L. O. Ogunniyi, a lecturer II in the Department is one of the awardees for the best Ph.D. Thesis in Education, in the Fafunwa Educational Foundation (F.E.F) for the year 2025.

Department of Estate Management

Full accreditation of B.Sc programme by the Estate Surveyors and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria (ESVARBON)

Oduntan Saheed Adeyemi was a recipient of the Faculty of Law Alumni Association Worldwide Award for being the best 200 Level student in the Faculty of Environmental Design and Management.

Department of Quantity Surveying

His Excellency, Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu, Former Governor of Bauchi State, donated a Toyota Camry to the Department of Quantity Surveying.

Commencement Speaker

I will like to appreciate the Commencement Speaker at this Day Three Convocation Ceremonies, a Distinguished alumnus of our great University, and also a lecturer at our Department of English Language, Faculty of Arts – Dr. Charles Tolulope Akinsete. We thank you for accepting to be the Commencement Speaker for today.

Closing Remarks

As we celebrate you today, know that this is not an end but the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning and contribution. The University of Ibadan will always remain your intellectual home, and we trust that you will continue to uphold its name with pride.

As you go into the world of the unknown, my special appeal to you is to be good ambassadors of this University and of God. His infinite mercies will continue to be with you in all your future endeavours. You bear the U.I torch, so, let it shine across the world. Finally, never forget to give back to your alma mater as the Lord gives you grace. Remember that you are witnesses of God's grace and favour.

In conclusion, I congratulate and felicitate once again with all our graduands on your academic attainment. I also felicitate with all parents, guardians, relations and teachers for your support, for your advice, and your pain-staking efforts in grooming these ones.

Thank you and God bless.

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

Vice-Chancellor

