

## **DAY 5: SATURDAY 15, NOVEMBER, 2025**

### **AN ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR KAYODE OYEBODE ADEBOWALE, mni, FAS, AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION INTO HIGHER DEGREES OF (M.Phil) AND MASTER'S OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER, 2025**

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnership)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

Provosts of the College of Medicine and of the Postgraduate College

Deans of Faculties

Director, PAULESI

Directors of Institutes and Centers

Heads of Departments

Members of Senate

Members of Congregation

President and members of the Student Union Executives

Members of the Students' Representative Council

Our Honoured Graduands

Parents and Guardians of our Graduands

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted and honoured to welcome you all to the fifth day of our 77<sup>th</sup> Convocation and second day of award of Postgraduate Diplomas and admission into Higher Degrees of Masters of Philosophy (M.Phil) and Master Degrees in Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Agriculture, The Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Law, Public Health, Institute of African Studies, Institute of Child Health and School of Business, and also, admission to Higher Degree (Masters) of PAULESI. It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to parents, guardians, guests, well-wishers, and alumni joining us on this special occasion.

**SUMMARY OF GRADUANDS FOR 2025 CONVOCATION CEREMONIES INTO HIGHER DEGREES AND POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS FOR SATURDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 2025**

| <b>S/No</b> | <b>Faculties</b>                              | <b>M.Phil</b> | <b>Masters (Acad)</b> | <b>Masters (Pro)</b> | <b>PGD</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1.          | Science                                       | 3             | 324                   | 6                    | 7          |
| 2.          | Basic Medical Sciences                        | 1             | 196                   | 0                    | 0          |
| 3.          | Agriculture                                   | 0             | 182                   | 0                    | 1          |
| 4.          | Clinical Sciences                             | 0             | 26                    | 0                    | 4          |
| 5.          | Public Health                                 | 1             | 183                   | 33                   | 0          |
| 6.          | The Social Sciences                           | 1             | 195                   | 32                   | 0          |
| 7.          | Law                                           | 0             | 105                   | 0                    | 0          |
| 8.          | Pharmacy                                      | 1             | 26                    | 0                    | 3          |
| 9.          | Institute of African Studies                  | 2             | 33                    | 0                    | 0          |
| 10.         | School of Business                            | 0             | 81                    | 37                   | 46         |
| 11.         | Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health | 0             | 7                     | 2                    | 0          |
| 12          | Institute of Child Health                     | 2             | 10                    | 11                   | 0          |

Today's graduands are the heart of this gathering — the very nectar that has drawn all of us here. I sincerely congratulate them and share in the joy of their families as they reach this significant academic milestone. The faces before me clearly reflect outstanding and meaningful achievements. I hope you will make a positive impact on the nation's various sectors as you face the considerable challenges ahead in our growing economy.

This year's convocation holds particular importance as the University of Ibadan marks its 77th anniversary. With each passing year, the University's influence and opportunities continue to expand. They say old wine tastes better than new, and with our accumulated wisdom and stature, we are steadfast in our commitment to support national development, economic recovery and growth of our nation.

## **POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION**

Through its Postgraduate College, the University of Ibadan has consistently maintained excellence in postgraduate education and research, producing the largest number of high-level professionals in Nigeria and West Africa and indeed in Africa. To advance this admirable goal, the Postgraduate College has hosted numerous interdisciplinary forums led by distinguished experts from academia and industry, both locally and internationally, focusing on the broad theme of Education and National Development.

Additionally, the College funds various workshops and seminars aimed at nurturing quality manpower essential for Nigeria's development. The significant number of Ph.D. degrees to be conferred on Monday, 18 November further attests to these efforts. These accomplishments are especially commendable given the challenges of limited resources.

The Postgraduate College continues to drive the University's transformation into a leading research and postgraduate institution. This was clearly demonstrated by the substantial increase in admission applications received this year.

The vision to become a world-class institution for academic excellence, focused on meeting societal needs, reflects our deep commitment to shaping the future through education, research, and community engagement. At our core, we strive not only to achieve the highest standards of teaching and scholarship but also to ensure that what we do has real, positive impacts beyond the walls of the University.

Our academic programs are designed to cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and innovation among our students, preparing them to excel in a rapidly changing global environment. Through rigorous inquiry and collaboration, we seek to produce knowledge that addresses pressing challenges faced by our society—whether in health, technology, governance, or the environment.

We also recognize that education must be inclusive and responsive. This means providing access to diverse populations and adapting to the evolving needs of industries and communities. Our mission emphasizes the integration of ethical leadership and social responsibility, ensuring that our graduates become not only experts in their fields but also advocates for sustainable development and social justice.

By continuously enhancing our curricula, fostering interdisciplinary research, and forging partnerships with stakeholders locally and internationally, we position ourselves as a catalyst for progress. We are dedicated to transforming ideas into solutions that advance society, promote economic growth, and improve quality of life.

As we pursue this, we remain guided by a vision of excellence that is measurable, meaningful, and aligned with national and global goals. Our University does not simply seek to participate in academia but to lead—with integrity, innovation, and inclusiveness—as a beacon of hope and opportunity for all.

Distinguished guests, esteemed faculty, proud families, and most importantly, our graduating students, I stand before you today to celebrate a significant milestone in the lives of our students and our University community. On record, the convocation ceremonies for Postgraduate Diploma and Masters students which mark the successful completion of academic journeys for

a remarkable total of 3,596 graduates from various Departments in the University are for two days: yesterday, Friday, 14 and today, Saturday, 15 November, 2025.

Among these, we have 22 candidates who have earned the Master of Philosophy degree, demonstrating outstanding research and scholarly dedication. Additionally, 124 postgraduate diploma students have fulfilled the rigorous requirements of their programs, advancing knowledge and expertise in their fields. We also recognize the 2,690 students who have completed their academic master's degrees, reflecting a deep commitment to learning and intellectual growth. Furthermore, 273 graduates have been awarded professional master's degrees, embodying the practical application of their studies to professional excellence. Also, 73 M. Sc graduates of PAULESI (Pan African University, Life and Earth Sciences Institute (including Health and Agriculture) which is domiciled on the campus of the University of Ibadan, will be graduating as well. A big congratulation to you all. It may interest you to know that PAULESI is one of the five institutes of the Pan African University (PAU), an initiative of African Union aimed at revitalizing higher education, and innovation across Africa. Part of the objectives is to produce 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. 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.

Each of these graduates from the University of Ibadan and from PAULESI represents hard work, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence. Today, we honor their achievements, acknowledge the support of their families and mentors, and reaffirm our University's commitment to fostering education that empowers and transforms lives.

Congratulations to all our graduates. May your accomplishments today be the foundation of even greater success in the years ahead.

Our staff and students have continued to excel, earning national and international recognition for their outstanding contributions to knowledge. Notably, the University of Ibadan has emerged as Nigeria's best university for 2026 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, a testament to our commitment to excellence and impactful scholarship. Out of 2,191 institutions surveyed from 115 countries and evaluated using 18 performance indicators across five key areas—teaching, research, research quality, industry income, and international outlook—UI rose from fourth position in 2025 to claim the top spot.

Since my last convocation address about a year ago, I am proud to highlight several significant academic and sustainable development achievements:

- ✚ 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.
- ✚ 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 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
- ✚ 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 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.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates, their families, and the entire University of Ibadan community. Today marks not just the culmination of your hard work and dedication but the beginning of a new chapter filled with promise and opportunity. As you step forward to contribute your talents to society, remember that you carry the proud legacy of this great institution—an institution committed to excellence, integrity, and service. Let us continue to support one another in the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, always striving to uplift our communities and inspire positive change. May your journey ahead be guided by wisdom, courage, and a deep sense of purpose. Thank you all for being part of this memorable day.

**Professor K. O. Adebowale, *mni*, FAS**  
**Vice-Chancellor**