



Convocation Address
Vice-Chancellor, Lagos State University
Professor Olanrewaju A. FAGBOHUN, Ph.D

INTRODUCTION

With a heart full of gratitude to God, I join the Chancellor, His Excellency, Hon. Mr. Justice Adesola OGUNTADE JSC, FNIALS, CON, CFR; the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Ninalowo and other esteemed members of the Governing Council; Members of Senate; Principal Officers and other members of our University Community to cordially welcome our distinguished guests, family members, alumni and our world class graduating students to the 22nd Convocation Ceremony of the Lagos State University.

At this year's Convocation Ceremony as it is our practice, we shall award diploma, first degrees, postgraduate diplomas and other higher degrees across faculties and disciplines. We shall also recognize the effort of some of our graduands who toiled day and night to distinguish themselves, by giving them prizes and awards across faculties.

Today's Ceremony is a culmination of perseverance, persistence and hardwork on the part of the entire workforce, our graduating students and their parents and guardians. The synergy between these three key components forms the background of today's success of graduating deserving students who have been found worthy in learning and character.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to say that the Lagos State University is proud of these students that we are graduating today. We have adequately tutored, nurtured and assessed them before certifying that they are worthy both in character and learning. We are therefore releasing them to the world to enable them make their mark in life and also bring glory to their alma mater.

I am excited to note that our University was ranked first among State Universities in the 2018 maiden National Universities Commission OER Ranking. Also, in recognition of our growing national and global reputation,

our University was selected by the National Universities Commission as lead institution for the development of:

- (i) Blueprint on how to ensure health security in Nigeria by 2050; AND
- (ii) Blueprint for transportation in Nigeria (2018 – 2050).

I wish to assure that we will not rest on our oars. A number of our faculty members and students have continued to win recognition both within and outside Nigeria, this is an indication that we are doing something right. We will continue to fulfill our mandate of producing highly skilled and qualified manpower for the development of Nigeria, Africa and the entire global community.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST ONE YEAR

At the Lagos State University, the determination to continuously add value is our driving force. In the last one year, we focused on consolidating on the achievements of the previous year and to the glory of God, we were able to achieve the followings:

1. Successful Accreditation of the Lagos State University Open Distance Learning Research and Institute (LASU-ODLRI) by the National Universities Commission (NUC). Admission of the first set of students will soon commence;
2. Award of scholarship to Two Hundred and Twenty (220) undergraduate students who finished the 2016/2017 Academic Session with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.5 and above;
3. Execution of various Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) among which are:
 - a. Collaboration with the Nigerian Airforce, Ministry of Defence on Research and Development in the areas of Aerospace Engineering; Aerospace and Satellite Corporation; Artificial intelligence and robotics by use of softwares; and Weather simulation systems and weather remote monitoring systems for use in Nigeria Airforce air fields.
 - b. Collaboration with National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Abuja on Development and Delivery of Teaching, Research and Community Services and Space Research.
4. Construction and Commissioning of the Faculty of Dentistry Research and Service Centre complete with State-of-the-art equipment to compliment the Dental facility in LASUTH.

5. Matriculation of Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty Three (4343) Students for the 2017/2018 Academic Session.
6. Completion of a Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies Building with funding from Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).
7. Presentation of Eight (8) Inaugural Lectures to deepen intellectual discourse and engagement with the community;
8. Establishment of a Career Development Centre that provides our students with services such as: career coaching and mentorship; internship and part-time job opportunities; and organization of professional networking career fairs.

Permit me to note in particular the ReadySetWork programme that was initiated by His Excellency in 2016. At its commencement we were excited about the programme, but, had no idea how impactful it would be. To date, ReadySetWork has trained close to one thousand five hundred final year students of our university in employability and entrepreneurship skills, and provided real-life work experiences for many of them through internship placements in private sector firms. Present here today among this year's graduating class are beneficiaries of the ReadySetWork programme. Every student in LASU now looks forward to their final year and the opportunity to participate in the programme. We are truly grateful to His Excellency for paving the way for students to transition into the world of work as value-adding employees or job creators.

We also want to thank His Excellency for the recent expansion of CodeLagos to tertiary institutions in Lagos State. We are happy to have been selected to have a coding centre set up on the LASU Campus. There is no doubt that this initiative will position our students to compete in the new economy, and to contribute to making Lagos State the technology frontier in Africa.

A comprehensive list of our achievements in the last one year can be found in the 2017 Annual Report of the University, our various newsletters, and on our website: www.lasu.edu.ng.

OUR WORTHY GRADUANDS

At the inception of this administration, we inaugurated a Quality Assurance Implementation Committee headed by Distinguished Professor Peter Akinsola OKEBUKOLA, OFR with a view to institutionalizing quality assurance in every facet of our activities i.e. teaching, research and service

delivery. Two years down the line, the idea is already bearing positive dividends as evident in our graduands who are imbued with the right ethics and requisite intellectual ability needed to thrive in a highly competitive environment.

At this year's Convocation Ceremony, we will be graduating twenty nine thousand, seven hundred and ten (29,710) students. This comprises:

Diploma	-	201
First Degree	-	21,481
Postgraduate	-	7,982
Ph.D	-	46

Twenty Six (26) of the First Degree graduands made a first class.

I heartily congratulate our dear graduating students, their parents/guardians, friends and others whose unquantified sacrifices brought about the accomplishments which we are celebrating today. Very shortly, the President of the Alumni will induct you into the fold of the Alumni of our great Institution.

Let me advise you like I always do, whatever negative experience you might have had as a student, do not let that define your relationship with your Institution. Rather, let it galvanize you to want to be a part of the solution. Always be ready to give back to the Institution. It is a responsibility that you must hold sacrosanct.

I also urge you to continue to develop your individual competencies and capacities to the full. Remember our golden phrase: ***We Are LASU, WE Are Proud.*** Also, remember that line of our University Anthem, ***"Blaze Forth, Shine for Humanity"*** Never ever be on the wrong side of good ethics and excellence. You are, no doubt, aware that a degree is no longer sufficient to achieve success; you need to improve on your skills and continually build on your achievements. Be selfless in your endeavours, while maintaining a high threshold for the frustrations that may come to the fore. This is the most practical approach to achieving your goals. Let me reassure you that you have what it takes to succeed.

APPRECIATION

Our special appreciation goes to the Visitor to our University, His Excellency, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Akinwunmi AMBODE, who has continually supported and motivated us. Your Excellency's vision for LASU is what Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor, the Special Adviser on Education and other members of the Lagos State Executive Council have continued to aggressively implement. Also to the former President, Chief (Dr.) Olusegun OBASANJO GCFR, your presence at our Convocation Lecture as the Chairman of the Occasion added glitz and glamour to the event and we will reminisce about your words of wisdom for a long time.

The Rt. Honourable Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable Mudashiru Obasa, we say thank you sir. Your clear passion for LASU is what the House Committee on Education and other Committees of the House that we regularly interface with continue to reflect. The House of Assembly undoubtedly desires that we excel and they make no pretense of this. Indeed, we are very grateful.

It is important I underscore the immeasurable support that we are getting from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Abdullahi Bichi Baffa; the National Universities Commission under the leadership of Professor Adamu Abubakar Rasheed, mni, MFR; who graciously shelved all other engagements to be at Lagos State University to deliver this year's Convocation Lecture, AND the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board under the leadership of Professor Ishaq Oloyede. Your encouragement has consistently served as a boost for us to want to achieve more. For you as regulatory agencies, we know that your core desire is excellence. We will not disappoint you.

I must acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the Chancellor, His Excellency, Hon. Mr. Justice Adesola Oguntade, JSC, FNIALS, CFR who arrived the country purposely to preside over the 22nd Convocation Ceremonies of our Institution despite his busy schedule as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. You have been a dependable father to our Institution. The commitment and clear vision of our Pro-Chancellor/Chairman of the Governing Council, Professor Adebayo M. A. Ninalowo, together with other members of our Council is unparalleled. Under your guidance, we are able to entrench merit, dedication to duty, justice and fair-play, transparency, teamwork and strict observance of due

process and Rule of Law. These have consistently become core values in the operations of our University.

Our appreciation also goes to the Alumni Association, our dedicated Faculty, Members of Staff and Staff/Students' Unions for your determination to make a positive difference. Same goes to our world class students who are determined to sustain stability and high level scholarship. We thank the media for standing by us and nudging us to become a point of reference. We appreciate our host communities across our campuses for supporting our developmental initiatives. We are conscious of the goodwill of all and for this reason, we will constantly strive not to disappoint you.

OUR CHALLENGES

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, at the last Convocation Ceremonies we pleaded for your support and we are most grateful to the individuals and corporate organisations who heeded this clarion call by making donations of Lecture Halls, Ambulances, Buses, Cash endowments among others to our University. In this regard, special mention must be made of the following individuals and organization:

- i. Her Excellency, Mrs. Bolanle AMBODE, wife of the Governor of Lagos State;
- ii. Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs.) Idiat Oluranti ADEBULE, Deputy Governor of Lagos State;
- iii. Mrs. Adejoke Orelope ADEFULURE, the Special Adviser to the President on Millennium Development Goals;
- iv. Sir (Dr.) Kessington Adebukunola Adebutu;
- v. Mr. Remi MAKANJUOLA; Chairman, Caverton Group of Companies for donating a 500 seat auditorium to the University;
- vi. Vision Scope Waste Management Resources Limited;
- vii. Distinguished Senator Solomon Olamilekan ADEOLA (YAYI).

Permit me to use these individuals/bodies as reference point for all our benefactors. We cherish and deeply appreciate your support which is part of what has elevated us to the position we presently occupy. The University still requires your support and intervention to equip our laboratories, renovate our staff quarters, replace our generators, acquire new vehicles and construct new lecture halls. In this respect, we plead for the support of potential benefactors and the good people of Lagos State. The government cannot do it alone. LASU needs your help.

CONCLUSION

Your Excellency, our esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your presence and your patience. God bless you all.

Professor Olanrewaju A. FAGBOHUN, Ph.D

Vice-Chancellor

24th May, 2018