



BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO



Vice Chancellor's Speech
PROFESSOR SAGIR
ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN
VICE CHANCELLOR, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



DATE

Wednesday, 12th February, 2025



TIME

9:00am prompt



VENUE

Convocation Arena, BUK New Campus

DAY 1

**SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS,
FMAN, AT THE 39TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY,
KANO HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

**Principal Officers of the University,
Members of the University Senate,
Provosts, Deans, and Directors,
Distinguished Members of the University Community,
Esteemed Parents and Guardians,
Respected Guests,
Graduands,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all to the 39th Convocation Ceremony of our esteemed institution, Bayero University, Kano, for the 2021/2022 academic session. Today is a momentous occasion, marking the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence by our graduands.

As has become tradition, this year's convocation spans four days, encompassing the conferment of degrees across **18 Faculties**. Additionally, we will honor two distinguished Nigerians, **Colonel Sani Bello (Rtd) and Alhaji A.A. Rano**, with honorary degrees, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to society. Furthermore, the university will bestow the title of **Emeritus Professor** upon three eminent scholars: **Professor Garba Dahuwa Azare, Professor Julius Afolabi Falola, and Professor Musa Muhammad Borodo**, in appreciation of their lifelong dedication to academia.

In keeping with our rich academic culture, this year's Convocation Lecture, Themed: **"Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A Pathway to National Development"**, will be delivered by the esteemed **Khalil Sulaiman Halilu**, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni), and to be chaired by **Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji**, Hon. Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST) on the eve of the Grand Finale of the Convocation.

Celebrating Academic Excellence

Convocation ceremonies are a time of celebration—an opportunity for our graduands, their families, friends, and mentors to rejoice in their academic achievements. Today's event not only signifies the completion of a rigorous academic journey but also marks the beginning of new opportunities and responsibilities in society.

A total of **4,402 graduands from 11 Faculties** are being presented for graduation today. The breakdown is as follows:

- Faculty of Allied Health Sciences: **334**
- Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences: **341**
- Faculty of Clinical Sciences: **210**

- Faculty of Dentistry: **30**
- Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies: **497**
- Faculty of Communication: **252**
- Faculty of Education: **1,345**
- Faculty of Engineering: **465**
- Faculty of Life Sciences: **514**
- Faculty of Physical Sciences: **375**
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences: **39**

Further details will be provided during the conferment of degrees according to individual faculties.

Our Commitment to Excellence

Bayero University, Kano, is firmly committed to excellence in education, research, and community service. Over the years, we have pursued a strategic vision to:

1. Transition from a teaching-focused to a research-driven university.
2. Transform from predominantly arts/humanities to science-based university.
3. Become an ICT-driven institution.
4. Align with global best practices in higher education.

In line with this vision, we have recorded remarkable achievements. In February 2024, Bayero University was ranked the 3rd best public university in Nigeria by Times Higher Education (THE). In the latest 2025 World University Assessment, BUK was ranked the 4th best public university in Nigeria, behind Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; the University of Ibadan; and the University of Lagos. Notably, BUK was also recognized as the **Best University in Nigeria in Terms of International Outlook**, surpassing all 274 universities in the country.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to further enhance our global visibility through impactful research, reputable publications, and international collaborations.

Enhancing the Student Experience

At Bayero University, we take pride in fostering a conducive academic environment, free from cultism and social vices. Our proactive security measures, coupled with rigorous awareness campaigns, ensure that our students graduate with integrity, embodying both character and academic excellence. The University Senate upholds a zero-tolerance policy for examination malpractice, ensuring fairness and credibility in our academic assessments.

We are equally committed to supporting students financially. The introduction of the **Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFund)** by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in May 2024 has been a game-changer. Bayero University students were among the primary beneficiaries, receiving over **N1 Billion in funding**, enabling over 11,000 of our students to register for the 2023/2024 session. This initiative underscores the Federal Government's dedication to making higher education accessible to all.

In November 2024, our Senate approved a six-week extension for students struggling to complete registration, ensuring that no student had to abandon their academic pursuit due to financial constraints. Additionally, students who faced extreme financial hardship

were granted temporary suspension of studies, providing them an opportunity to re-enroll in future sessions.

Student Welfare and Empowerment Initiatives

Beyond academics, we continue to prioritize student welfare. In December 2021, we launched the **On-Campus Students' Job Scheme**, providing students with part-time employment opportunities. This scheme, which began with 125 students earning N15,000 monthly, has now expanded to accommodate 150 students. The management remains committed to expanding this initiative as financial resources permit.

Moreover, our **Skills Acquisition Centre**, housed within the Student Affairs Deanery, remains operational, offering practical training to students in various vocational fields, preparing them for self-reliance after graduation. Given the prevailing economic realities, I encourage all students to take advantage of this program.

Campus Security: A Collective Priority

Security remains a key priority for the university management. We have taken concrete steps to ensure the safety of our students and staff, including the appointment of a Director of Security and the implementation of enhanced security strategies. As a result, issues such as unauthorized encroachment by Fulani herders have been significantly reduced.

A Call to Our Graduands

To our esteemed graduands, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in your journey. As you step into the world, remember that you are ambassadors of Bayero University, Kano. Uphold the values of integrity, excellence, and service, and contribute meaningfully to the development of your communities and our nation.

To the parents, guardians, and families of our graduands, I share in your joy and pride. Your sacrifices, support, and unwavering encouragement have played a vital role in this momentous achievement.

I also extend my deepest appreciation to our dedicated faculty, non-teaching staff, the University Senate, the Management, the Governing Council, and the Convocation Committee. Your collective efforts have made this event a success.

Finally, to our distinguished guests, I sincerely thank you for honoring our invitation and celebrating with us today.

May the Almighty continue to bless Bayero University, Kano, and guide us toward greater achievements.

Thank you, and God bless.

Signed:

Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN

Vice-Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano

