



BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO



# CONVOCATION C E R E M O N Y

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



**DATE**

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2025



**TIME**

9:00am prompt



**VENUE**

Convocation Arena, BUK New Campus



**DAY 2**

**SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN,  
AT THE 39TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 13TH 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,  
Our Celebrated Graduands,  
Gentlemen of the Press,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning.**

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I welcome you all to the 39th Convocation Ceremony of our esteemed institution, Bayero University, Kano, for the 2022/2023 academic session. Today, we gather to honor the dedication, resilience, and accomplishments of our graduands, who stand as a testament to the university's commitment to academic excellence.

This convocation, as is our tradition, spans four days, during which degrees will be conferred across 18 faculties. We are particularly privileged this year to bestow **honorary degrees** upon two distinguished Nigerians: **Colonel Sani Bello (Rtd.) and Alhaji A. A. Rano**, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to national development. Additionally, we will honor three esteemed retired professors—**Professor Garba Dahuwa Azare, Professor Julius Afolabi Falola, and Professor Musa Muhammad Borodo—with Emeritus Professorships**, acknowledging their lifelong dedication to academia and scholarship.

A significant highlight of this convocation is the Convocation Lecture, titled “**Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A Pathway to National Development**,” to be delivered by **Khalil Sulaiman Halilu**, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI). This important discourse will be chaired by **Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji**, the Honourable Minister of Innovation, Science, and Technology.

### **Celebrating Academic Excellence**

Convocation is a time of celebration—not only for our graduands but also for their families, friends, and mentors. It marks the culmination of years of hard work and dedication, signifying that our students are deemed worthy in both character and learning.

Today, on the second day of our four-day celebration, we will confer degrees upon **4,367 graduands from seven faculties**. The breakdown is as follows:

Faculty of Agriculture: **369**

Faculty of Computing: **261**

Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences: **286**

Faculty of Law: **248**

Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences: **357**

Faculty of Social Sciences: **571**

School of Continuing Education: **2,275**

In our continuous effort to improve administrative efficiency and service delivery, I am pleased to announce that, all graduands will receive their certificates and academic transcripts at this convocation. This significant milestone reflects our commitment to fostering excellence and ensuring our graduates are well-equipped to pursue further opportunities without administrative delays.

### **Our Commitment to Excellence**

Bayero University, Kano, remains steadfast in its mission to be a leading institution in education, research, and community service. Our vision encompasses:

1. Transitioning from a teaching-focused to a research-intensive university.
2. Strengthening science and technology-based disciplines.
3. Becoming an ICT-driven institution.
4. Aligning with global best practices in higher education.

These strategic initiatives have propelled BUK to new heights. In February 2024, **Times Higher Education (THE)** ranked Bayero University as the **3rd Best Public University in Nigeria**. Furthermore, in the 2025 World University Rankings, BUK was positioned as the **4th Best Public University in Nigeria**, trailing only Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; the University of Ibadan; and the University of Lagos. Remarkably, BUK was also recognized as the **Best University in Nigeria in Terms of International Outlook**, surpassing all **274 universities** in the country.

Our relentless pursuit of excellence continues to enhance our global visibility through impactful research, international collaborations, and the consistent delivery of quality education.

### **Supporting Our Students**

Bayero University is committed to fostering an enabling environment for learning, free from cultism and social vices. Our proactive awareness campaigns and stringent adherence to examination ethics underscore our zero-tolerance policy towards academic malpractice.

Recognizing the financial challenges faced by many students, the university has worked diligently to secure **financial aid for indigent students**. Following the adjustment of registration fees for the 2022/2023 session, we engaged government officials, corporate entities, and philanthropists to provide support, resulting in over 95% of students successfully registering over the past two years.

Additionally, the **Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFund)**, introduced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in May 2024, has provided significant financial relief to our students, disbursing over **₦1 billion in funding**, which enabled more than 11,000 of students to register for the 2023/2024 academic session.

In November 2024, the Senate approved a six-week extension for registration to accommodate students experiencing financial hardship. Those unable to register within this period were given the option to defer their studies for the academic year, ensuring they were not unfairly disadvantaged.

### **Student Welfare and Empowerment**

Beyond academics, Bayero University is committed to empowering students with practical skills and opportunities. The **On-Campus Students' Job Scheme**, launched in December 2021, has provided employment for **150 students**, each earning **₦15,000 monthly**. This initiative not only supports students financially but also instills a strong work ethic and professional skills. We are committed to expanding this scheme as resources permit.

Our **Skills Acquisition Centre** continues to play a pivotal role in equipping students with vocational skills, fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship post-graduation. In today's challenging economic climate, I encourage all students to maximize these opportunities.

### **Ensuring Campus Security**

The safety and security of our university community remain paramount. The university has made substantial investments in security infrastructure, including appointing a Director of Security and implementing comprehensive security strategies. As a result, issues such as herder encroachment and other threats have significantly decreased, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment.

### **A Message to Our Graduands**

To our graduating students, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Today, you join a distinguished league of Bayero University alumni who are making significant contributions across various sectors globally. As you embark on your next journey, I urge you to uphold the values of integrity, excellence, and service that define this great institution.

To the parents and guardians, your unwavering support and sacrifices have been instrumental in the success of our graduands. Today's achievements are as much yours as they are your children's.

I also wish to express my profound gratitude to our dedicated faculty and non-teaching staff, the University Senate, the Governing Council, and the Convocation Committee for their tireless efforts in making this convocation a success.

To our distinguished guests, thank you for honoring our invitation and sharing in this momentous occasion.

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

Thank you, and God bless.

**Signed:**

**Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN**

Vice-Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano