



SPEECH BY THE
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council
His Excellency,
Dr. Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna
at the
39th Convocation Ceremony
Bayero University, Kano

Saturday, 15th February, 2025
Convocation Arena, BUK New Campus

Protocol:

The Visitor,

- ✓ The Chancellor,
- ✓ Esteemed Members of the Governing Council,
- ✓ The Vice-Chancellor,
- ✓ Principal Officers of the University,
- ✓ The Senate,
- ✓ Faculty Members,
- ✓ Graduands, Parents, Guardians,
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

It is with immense joy and humility that I address you on this momentous occasion of the 39th Convocation Ceremony of Bayero University, Kano—a celebration of excellence, resilience, and the unyielding pursuit of knowledge.

To our distinguished graduands, congratulations! You are now ambassadors of a university that stands among the top 10 universities in Nigeria and has secured 43rd position in Africa in the 2025 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Let this achievement inspire you to strive for greatness and serve humanity with integrity.

To the parents and guardians, today is also a tribute to your sacrifices and unwavering support. Your efforts have been instrumental in shaping the success of these young minds.

I commend the Vice-Chancellor for his visionary leadership, which has driven groundbreaking initiatives, including the Students' On-Campus Job Scheme, the reintroduction of the Remedial Science Programme, and the Skills Acquisition Centre—empowering students with practical knowledge. Under his stewardship, BUK has also excelled in research, notably with the Africa Centre of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) influencing global maternal health policies through the World Health Organization (WHO).

The university has also strengthened its partnerships, securing support from NASENI for an Agriculture Incubation and Development Centre and achieving global recognition through the Department of Information & Media Studies, which earned an award in Abu Dhabi, UAE, for its work in promoting peace and tolerance.

Appreciation for Philanthropists' Contributions

We recognize and deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions of individuals and organizations that have supported indigent students in meeting their financial obligations. In particular, we extend our gratitude to the Kano State Government, as well as other state governments and distinguished philanthropists, including Senator Rufai Sani Hanga, Senator Barau Jibrin, Senator Kawu Samaila, A.A. Rano, Hon. Abubakar Kabir Bichi, Hon. Kabir Alhassan Rurum and other important contributors. Their generosity has provided relief to thousands of students, reinforcing the spirit of community and shared responsibility in advancing education.

To the academic and non-teaching staff, your dedication to excellence is commendable. The recent promotion of 395 academic and 421 non-teaching staff affirms BUK's commitment to staff development. I also extend gratitude to the university unions (ASUU, SSANU, NASU & NAAT) for fostering industrial harmony, ensuring an environment conducive to learning and research.

To the Federal Government, particularly His Excellency, President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, I commend the establishment of NELFUND, which has benefited thousands of students, ensuring access to higher education regardless of financial barriers.

A Charge to the Graduands

Dear graduands, as you embark on your journey, embrace excellence, integrity, and service. Always remember that success is measured not just by personal achievements but by the impact you create in society.

For those of us guided by faith, let us remember the words of Allah in Surah Al-Mujadila (58:11):

"Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees."

To my fellow leaders and stakeholders, let us renew our commitment to advancing this great institution, ensuring BUK remains a beacon of knowledge, research, and innovation.

On this occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the esteemed recipients of honorary degrees, Col. Sani Bello (Rtd.), and Auwalu Abdullahi Rano, OON. Your achievements and contributions to national development are truly commendable.

I also celebrate the distinguished scholars being conferred with the title of Emeritus Professor. Your dedication to academic excellence and mentorship has left an indelible mark on this university and beyond.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands. May your futures be bright, your paths illuminated by knowledge, and your contributions impactful to society.

Thank you, and may Allah bless Bayero University, Kano, and our dear nation.

