

**27TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES**

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY, OJO, PROFESSOR IBIYEMI IBILOLA OLATUNJI-BELLO, mni, NPOM, AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE 27TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON THURSDAY, 30TH MAY 2024 AT THE SENATE CHAMBER, OJO, LAGOS.**

**PROTOCOL**

1. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Professor Olufunsho A. **OMOBITAN**
2. University Registrar and Secretary to Governing Council, Mr. Emmanuel A. **FANU**
3. University Bursar, Mr. Said Babatunde **OLAYINKA**, FCA
4. University Librarian, Dr. Omawunmi **MAKINDE**
5. Provost and All Deans of Faculties/Schools
6. All Professors here present
7. Directors of Centres
8. Coordinators of Centres
9. Heads of Teaching and Non-Teaching Departments
10. Our Dear Media Partner
11. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Press Conference of the 27th Convocation Ceremonies of Lagos State University for the 2022/2023 Academic Session which is also the third under my administration.

Esteemed members of the media, it is our tradition to inform you first about the activities lined up for convocation ceremonies in recognition of your crucial role in information dissemination and publicity of the programme of event. The university deeply appreciates your partnership in positively projecting its image and for supporting its vision to be a model of academic excellence in West Africa. Your efforts are invaluable to us and we thank you for your steadfast and unfailing support.

This year's Convocation, like previous editions, is divided into two:

* Pre-Convocation events
* Convocation events.

This Press Conference, which marks the first pre-convocation event, will be followed, by **the Convocation Staff Sports Competition at the** LASU Sports Centre later today.

**On Friday,** 31st May 2024, which is Day 2 of the Ceremonies, we shall hold the **Jumat Service at the** University Central Mosque, at 1:00 p.m;

On Day 3, which is Sunday, 2nd June 2024, we shall hold the **Special Thanksgiving Service at the** University Chapel of Light, Ojo, Lagos at 10:00 a.m. The Thanksgiving Service marks the end of the Pre-Convocation Events.

On Monday, 3rd June 2024, which is the **Coconut Breaking and Cultural Festival** which will kick start the convocation events will be held at the Badagry Gate, Ojo at 9:00 a.m.

On Tuesday, 4th June 2024, which is Day 5 of the Convocation, we shall be having the **Convocation Lecture titled: "Embracing the Future: Navigating the Intersection of Technology and Humanity".** The **Convocation Lecturer is His Excellency, Dr Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, CON,** a former governor of Lagos State and Visitor to our university. An accomplished lawyer and celebrated public servant, Dr Fashola was the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing, under Muhammadu Buhari’s administration from 2019 to 2023. Dr. Fashola was conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (Urban and Rural Community Development and Youth Empowerment at our last Convocation.

The Convocation Lecture will be chaired by **Emeritus Prof Peter Okebukola, OFR,** who was a distinguished Professor of Science and Computer Education until retirement from our university. A former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC). Professor Okebukola was conferred with the exclusive rank of Emeritus Professor, the first in the history of our institution, by the Senate of the university in 2023. **The Convocation Lecture will be held at the Buba Marwa Auditorium, Main Campus, Ojo at 11:00 a.m.**

On Wednesday, 5th June 2024, which is Day 6 of the Ceremonies, **Diplomas, First Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas and Master’s Degrees** shall be awarded to deserving graduands at the Buba Marwa Auditorium, Ojo by 10:00 a.m.

On Thursday, 6th June 2024, which is Day 7 and the grand finale of the Ceremonies, **Award of Doctorate Degrees and Conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degrees and Emeritus Professor shall be held** at the Buba Marwa Auditorium, Main Campus, Ojo at 10:00 a.m.

I want to use this opportunity to invite you to the events.

The following is the breakdown of the graduating students:

**(A)  DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES IN THE UNIVERSITY**

Out of **554** Diploma students that are graduating this year, there are 55 Distinctions, 274 Upper credits, 224 Lower credits and 1 pass

**(B)   FIRST DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN THE UNIVERSITY**

Out of the **8,670** students that are graduating for 1st Degree programmes in the University, 153 came out with First Class, 3029 are graduating with second class Upper Division, 715 are graduating with second class Lower Division, 228 are graduating with a Pass and 195 are graduating with Non-Classified Degrees

(C )  **SUMMARY OF GRADUANDS FOR HIGHER DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

Out of the **2164** Postgraduate students that are graduating, we have 375 Postgraduate Diplomas, 962 Academic Masters, 672 Professional Masters, 89 Doctor of Philosophy and 66 Professional Doctoral Degrees.

I am happy to announce that **OLANIYI MUBARAQ OLAWALE** of the Accounting Education with a **CGPA of 4.98 [First Class Honours]** is our best-graduating students for the 2022/2023, while for Masters, **OLAITAN AMINAT DAMILOLA with a CGPA of 4.78 (Educational Management)** is the best graduating student for 2022/2023 in this year’s ceremony.

Apart from the 89 doctorate awardees, we shall confer Honorary Doctorate degrees on two eminent Nigerians for their invaluable contributions to the development of our University and the nation at large. One of our Distinguished Professors has been elevated to the rank of Emeritus Professor, the second in the history of our university and a Professor also has been elevated to the rank of Distinguished Professor.

They are as follows:

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| **S/N**  | **NAME** | **HONORARY AWARD** |
| 1. | Distinguished Prof Martins Aghenuma **ANETEKHAI** | Emeritus Professor |
| 2. | Professor Amidu Olalekan **Sanni** | Distinguished Professor |
| 2. | Prince (Hon.) Tajudeen Oluyole **OLUSI** MON OON | Honorary Doctor of Literature (History, Education and Community Development), Honoris Causa;  |
| 3. | Prince (Dr) Samuel **ADEDOYIN,** OFR | Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (Commerce, Industry and National Development) Honoria Causa    |

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Gentlemen of the press, in our march towards the attainment of our six strategic goals and in pursuit of the vision of becoming the best university in West Africa, we have recorded some landmark achievements since the last convocation ceremony. Permit me therefore to use this medium to highlight some of these achievements recorded in **the last twelve months**:

**Academic Developments**

1. In the 2023/2024 Academic Session, we admitted the first set of students into 20 newly approved programmes in four new faculties and school namely:
* Faculty of Allied Health Sciences;
* Faculty of Pharmacy;
* Faculty of Environmental Sciences
* School of Library, Archival and Information Science, the first in West Africa and Second in Africa.

These programmes are:

1. B.Sc. Architecture
2. B.Sc. Building
3. B.Sc. Estate Management
4. B.Sc. Environmental Management
5. B.Sc. Industrial Design:
6. B.Sc. Survey and Geo-Informatics
7. B.Sc. Quantity Surveying
8. B.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning
9. B.A. Fine Arts
10. B.LIS. Library and Information Science
11. B.Ed. Special Education
12. B.Eng. Industrial Engineering & Production
13. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D)
14. Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT)
15. B.Sc. Radiography and Radiation Science
16. BMLS. Medical Laboratory Science
17. B.A. Linguistics
18. B.Eng. Civil Engineering
19. B.Sc. Science Laboratory Technology
20. B.Sc. Taxation

2. We also secured approval to mount nine (9) additional courses for the Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative STEM Education (ACEITSE) under the B.Sc. Degree Programme

1. Still on the Africa Centre of Excellence, we quadrupled the Centre’s performance earnings (measured by the World Bank’s Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI) from less than 20% in September, 2021 to over 75% as at April, 2024), a feat that accorded commendation from the World Bank.
2. We implemented a hybrid mode of teaching for large classes by developing and deploying the Virtual Learning Application Platform (VLAP)
3. In our Postgraduate School, we have increased the number of postgraduate programmes being offered to remedy the manpower and professional skills shortages in Lagos State. Against this background, we have established twenty-four (24) new postgraduate programmes mostly in the professional and skill-based disciplines taking the total number of postgraduate programmes being offered at the postgraduate level in the university to 336.
4. We have elevated the status of the university to the third most subscribed university in Nigeria while sustaining our rankings for second time running as the best university in West Africa according to the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking. In addition, we maintained our status as the best State University and the 9th Overall Best University in Nigeria according to the highly credible AD Index Ranking.
5. Stutern also ranked LASU the 5th best university in Nigeria on graduate employability

**RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

1. In the area of research and innovation, we strengthened our research and innovation drive by opening an Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer Office under the Directorate of Research Management and Innovation and trained our staff in Intellectual Property Management. All these efforts are geared towards driving and protecting innovative products, services and ideas amongst LASU staff and students that could add value to our society.
2. Also, LASU has consistently been rated as the best in West Africa in the area of sustainability and green efforts since 2022. For this effort, LASU was selected as the Coordinating Centre and member of the Steering Committee of the University of Indonesia GreenMetric, the global ranking body for the practice of sustainability in the world.

**ICT DEVELOPMENT:**

1. In recognition of our strides in ICT development, LASU won three awards at the Nigeria Information Technology Awards which are the Award of Excellence in Digital Transformation, Best Use of Technology (Students’ Record) and Best Use of Technology (E-Records) thereby emerging as the most digitally advanced State University in Nigeria.
2. The university has fully digitalized the postgraduate school processes from application for admission to graduation. This development has reduced the turnaround time for the issuance of transcripts considerably.

In addition to these, the Administration has also recorded other achievements in the area of ICT which include:

1. Development of the Smart Identification Card for all our staff and students, usable in all ATMs and POS in Nigeria;

2. Development of the LASU Staff Corner App, an Android application that contains all the laws and statutes of the University;

3. Development of the Mylasu App, a student lifestyle App that allows lecturers to contact students directly, organize meeting sessions and pass relevant information to them, already on playstore and will be commissioned very soon;

4. Development of a health centre appointment manager which reduces the time spent by staff and students at the University Health Centre by prior booking of appointments;

5. Automation of Staff Assessment and Evaluation Process (e-aper) and Real-time Online Leave Management System, amongst others.

**Infrastructural Development**

1. In the area of infrastructural developments, we have, with the solid support of the Lagos State Government and well-meaning individuals, expanded our infrastructure base with the addition of some new buildings. Worthy of mention are the Femi Gbajabiamila Conference Centre (commissioned in January 2024), the LASU ACEITSE STEM Education Laboratory Building (Commissioned in April 2024) and the Samuel Adedoyin ICT Centre building recently handed over to the university by one of this convocation honourees;
2. We also revamped and remodelled some of our existing facilities including the Students Affairs Building through the support of TETFUND.

**Revenue Generation**

1. In the area of revenue generation, we have established new programmes at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to shore up our revenues. We have also floated new short-term programmes under the LASU Consult to provide opportunities for working professionals to acquire relevant certifications while generating revenue for the university.
2. We have also begun production and sales of the LASU bottled and sachet Water in addition to the well-known LASU Bread to members of the university community and out-of-campus vendors.

**STAFF AND STUDENTS' WELFARE AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

In the area of staff and students’ welfare, we have provided an enabling environment for our staff and students to pursue studies and careers in a conducive academic environment that offers them opportunities for personal growth and development. This enabling environment has enhanced the achievements of many of our staff, students and alumni. The following achievements of members of our University Community are worthy of mention:

1. Ten (10) of our alumni in the Faculty of Law graduated with first-class honours at their final Bar Examination earlier this year making this highest figure attained by the university in a single session;

2. Still from the faculty of Law, 10 of the 13 newly appointed Judges of the Lagos State High Court are alumni of this great university, the highest at any given time in history;

3. Still counting from the Faculty of Law, team LASU defeated representatives from 52 other universities to win the National Inter-Faculty Competition;

4. Students from the Faculty of Law also defeated those from several other universities in Nigeria to win the Intellectual Property Law Competition.

On the strength of these achievements by our Law students, I make bold to say that we have one of the best, if not the best, law faculty in Nigeria.

1. Also worthy of celebrating is our alumnae and lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, Dr Aminat Ige-Ariyibi, who emerged the winner of the Overall Best PhD Thesis award of the University of Lagos for the 2022/2023 Academic Session;

2. Team LASU emerged winner of the second edition of the Cavistas Hackathon involving over 150 students from two other institutions;

3. A 200-level student of our university from the Faculty of Engineering, Miss Chinanza Okpala won the APWEN Innovation Month Challenge;

4 Two students from the College of Medicine won the Washington College of Medicine Award for their campaign on HPV Awareness;

5. We are also proud to have one of our former Student Union leaders and staff, Mr Samuel Olawale Kappo, appointed by Governor Sanwo-Olu as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Students Union and Tertiary Education.

**Sports**

Under Sports and Recreation, which is the 6th strategic goal of this administration, I am glad to inform you that preparations are in top gear for the All-Africa University Games to be co-hosted by LASU and the University of Lagos in September 2024. Earlier this year, we hosted the Pre-FASU Games Seminar and are leaving no stone unturned to host a memorable game, that I can assure you. Just as I did when I addressed you the last time, permit me to invite well-meaning individuals and organisations to partner with the university through sponsorships and product advertisements to make this tournament a huge success.

Gentlemen and Ladies of the press, we have continued to blaze the trail in all areas of academic activities in this university. We have done this without losing our focus to actualize the vision of becoming the best University in West Africa through meticulously pursuing policies that advance the clearly stated six (6) strategic goals of this administration. I can assure you that we shall not rest on our oars until we achieve our goals by the grace of God.

**Appreciation**

Let me appreciate the Governor of Lagos State and the Visitor to Lagos State University, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for his immeasurable and invaluable contributions to the growth and development of our university.

I equally thank the Commissioner of Tertiary Education, Hon. Tolani Sule Akibu, the Chancellor, Professor Gbolahan Elias, SAN, and the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Sir David Sunmoni, FCA, KJW and all Members of Governing Council, well-meaning stakeholders including, Members of Management, Senate, LASU Alumni, Staff and Students of the University.

Special Appreciation also goes to our benefactors, Mr Femi Gbajabiamila, Chief of Staff to the president and Prince (Dr.) Samuel Adedoyin, C.E.O Doyin Investments Limited for the buildings they have donated to the University.

I thank you all and God bless.

We are LASU, we are great!

**Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM**