

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA

Office of the Vice-Chancellor



VICE-CHANCELLOR:

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“IT’S ANOTHER CONVOCATION CEREMONY”

BEING THE TEXT OF PRESS BRIEFING DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR OLAYEMI AKINWUMI, VICE-CHANCELLOR, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMBINED 6TH AND 7TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER, 2023 AT THE FELELE CAMPUS

Protocol

Principal Officers of the University

Deans and Directors

Heads of Departments/Units

Professors

Members of the 6th and 7th Convocation Central Planning Committee

Distinguished members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the Press, it is with gratitude to Almighty God that I address you this day on the occasion of the combined Sixth and Seventh Convocation ceremony of the Federal University Lokoja, which incidentally is the second ceremony since my assumption of office as the Vice-Chancellor of this University.

I welcome you all to this auspicious meeting where I will be briefing you on the strides that the University has attained since the fifth convocation ceremony that took place in November, 2021.

In this year’s combined Convocation ceremony, 2,511 graduands will be conferred with First degrees, 99 Master degrees and 128 Postgraduate Diploma. The classification of degrees to be awarded is as follows:

6th Set:

➤ First Class Honours	-	28
➤ Second Class Honours Upper Division	-	319
➤ Second Class Honours Lower Division	-	736
➤ Third Class Honours	-	197
➤ Pass degree	-	3
Total	=	1273

7th Set:

➤ First Class Honours	-	33
➤ Second Class Honours Upper Division	-	286
➤ Second Class Honours Lower Division	-	668
➤ Third Class Honours	-	250
➤ Pass degree	-	1
Total	=	1238

Grand Total for 6th and 7th sets = 2511

Furthermore, Honorary Degrees would be conferred on eminent personalities that have contributed to the development of the nation.

I use this medium to congratulate our graduating students of the two sets on this academic feat and rejoice with them and their families for the journey so far. I admonish them to be good ambassadors of Federal University Lokoja enjoining them to uphold the morals and values of this noble University. I also want to congratulate our honorary degree Awardees for accepting to be honoured by this University. It is expected that the Awardees esteemed presence will enrich the ceremony.

The programmes of activities for the 6th and 7th Combined Convocation Ceremony is as follows:

Day 1: Monday, October 16, 2023

- Press Briefing by the Vice-Chancellor
- Council Chambers, Felele Campus
- 10.00am prompt

Day 2: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

- Founder's Day
- College of Health Sciences, Adankolo Campus
- 10.00am prompt

Day 3: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

- Research Fair

- College of Health Sciences, Adankolo Campus
- 10.00am prompt

Day 4: Thursday, October 19, 2023

- Convocation Lecture
- Multi-purpose Hall, Felele Campus
- 2.00pm prompt
- Topic: The Role of University Education in a Society in constant Transition by Professor Olu Obafemi, NMON, FNAL, former Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, FUT Minna

Day 5: Friday, October 20, 2023

- Juma'at Prayer
- University Mosque, Adankolo Campus
- 1.30pm prompt
- Chancellor's Night
- Riverton Hotels and Towers, Lokoja
- 5.00pm prompt

Day 6: Saturday, October 21, 2023

- 6th and 7th Convocation
- Convocation Arena, Felele Campus
- 10.00am prompt

Day 7: Sunday, October 22, 2023

- Sunday Service
- Regina Caeli, Adankolo Campus
- 10.00am prompt

Relocation to the Permanent site in Felele

I want to inform you with utmost excitement that all the programmes of the University are now domiciled on the Permanent Site in Felele. The Faculties of Arts, Education, Engineering, Management Sciences, Science, Social Sciences have been relocated to the Felele Campus and all academic activities now take place here on the Campus. While the Take-off Campus in Adankolo now houses the College of Health Sciences and the Department of Nursing Science.

Establishment of new Academic Programmes

On my assumption of office as Vice-Chancellor of Federal University Lokoja (FUL), I came with, amongst other visions, the agenda to establish some academic programmes that were not in existence in FUL but are of high demand by the citizenry of this State.

I am glad to inform you that the University today added to its academic programmes, Medicine, Nursing and Engineering while Agriculture, Law, Pharmacy, Psychology and Medical Laboratory Sciences programmes are in the pipeline.

Admission into newly established Academic Programmes of Federal University Lokoja

It is no longer news that our College of Health Sciences has taken off fully with our pioneer students now in the 200 Level. I am however, happy to inform you that the maiden students' admission exercise into the Engineering and Nursing Programmes will take place in the 2023/2024 academic session.

I want to use this occasion to express appreciation to the Federal Government under the immediate past President His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari for the approval to convert the Federal Medical Centre Lokoja to Federal Teaching Hospital to be used as Teaching Hospital for our Medical programmes.

We are using this medium to appeal to the good people of the State to help us develop the Teaching Hospital by providing Auditorium, Lecture Theatre, and Hostels.

2023 Sub-Sahara African Varsities' Ranking

It is my delight to report that Federal University Lokoja falls within the 51st - 60th bracket out of the 120 Sub-Saharan Universities that were ranked on 26th June, 2023 by the Times Higher Education.

The University was in the 17th position of the 51 Nigerian Universities ranked and 9th position amongst the Federal Universities. This was disclosed by Professor Peter Okebukola, the Chairman of Nigerian Universities Ranking Advisory Committee on his return from Accra, Ghana where the exercise took place.

International Relations

The University is trying to penetrate Cuba through the Ambassador for the development of our Medical and Engineering programmes. Already we are relating to the University of Freiburg in Germany and Morgan State University in the United States of America (USA).

Inaugural Lecture

Two Inaugural lectures were held before I assumed office in 2021. Today, a total of fifteen (15) Inaugural Lectures have taken place. It is a University culture and a way of showcasing our academic achievements.

However, between the fifth convocation ceremony and now eight (8) lectures took place as follows:

No. of Inaugural Lecture	Inaugural Lecturer	Date	Topic
8th	Professor Francisca Onaoladipo	16/11/2022	If you wish to go far, go fairy: Reconnoitering an Emerging Computing Paradigm
9th	Professor Adang Lucas Kombe	25/01/2023	Birds: Their role in sustaining the environment
10th	Professor Suleiman Muhammed Nasirudeen	22/02/2023	Pathogenic Fungi and Food deprivation the challenges of plant Pathologists.
11th	Professor Tanko Dauda	29/03/2023	Biodiversity Conservation for Sustainable Economic Development in a Post Covid-19 Era: Dress and Keep it, for this is the whole duty of man.
12th	Professor Jacqueline Badaki Azumi	07/06/2023	The Endless war between Neglected Tropical Diseases and overlooked populations.
13th	Professor Ezra Shiloba Gbaje	05/07/2023	Beyond Digitization: Access and Preservation
14th	Professor Patrick Amidu Audu	26/07/2023	Ubiquitousness of Parasites: Keeping the 'Tricksters at bay'.
15th	Professor Benjamin Mopa Dauda	20/09/2023	Polymer: Material Driving Technological Advancement.

Community Service

This Administration has established both Primary and International Secondary Schools where quality education is made available to the community. The schools have continued to attract patronage from the length and breadth of both the University community, Lokoja and its environs.

The University has also established some Diploma programmes to prepare our young ones who have not been able to proceed directly for degree programmes due to their inability to meet admission requirements.

Pre-degree programmes have also been established in some selected areas in the State.

Consultancy Services and Ventures

The University established a Consultancy service and Ventures Directorate christened the FUL Felele Consult Ltd which has been the driving force of its efforts at generating revenue. Some of the ventures undertaken include the FUL Printing Press, the Water Factory and the Block making Industry. The revenue generated from these ventures have assisted the University to meet some of its urgent needs that are not catered for by Government subventions.

Infrastructural Development

I also wish to report to this medium that in spite of the dwindling funding of public Universities and the paucity of funds available for the use of the University, I am glad to announce that the following infrastructural developments have been accomplished by the University most of which were obtained through personal efforts of the Vice-Chancellor and his team:

- a. Construction of road networks linking the main Gate to the Administrative Block, Students Hostel and University Farms, ring roads connecting the Senate Chamber through the professorial offices block, administrative block through Faculty of Science to the Library.
- b. Construction of Entrepreneurship Centre where all our students are now trained in one skill or the other after which they will be registered with Corporate Affairs Commission and certificated.
- c. Construction of 12 blocks of Lecture Halls
- d. Construction of University Mini-Stadium and Recreational Centre.
- e. Expansion of the University Health Centre - The Health Centre is now opened to the public for consultation and medical attention.
- f. Solar powered electrification of the streets/road networks on the Campus.
- g. Construction of 40 blocks of Shops on Build, Operate and Transfer model
- h. Renovation of Faculty of Science Complex
- i. Renovation of the University Library and ICT Centre
- j. Construction of Agricultural Training Centre facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture
- k. Connection of electricity from the Lokoja Power Substation to link the University to the national grid.
- l. Procurement of a fire fighting service Truck
- m. Construction of Security building

- n. Renovation of the Male and Female Hostels at the Adankolo Campus for the MB;BS students.
- o. The construction of 4-Storey Senate Building in progress.
- p. The construction of the Faculty of Engineering in progress
- q. Two 18-Seater Buses donated by Dr. Innocent Ozoemena Ezuma which is highly appreciated by the University.
- r. Grant of N250,000,000.00 from BUA Cement for the construction of our Central Laboratory for which the University deeply appreciates.

Distinguished Personality Public Lecture

In our bid to continue to foster the Town and Gown relationship and also to ensure that the University's culture and tradition of academic excellence subsist in FUL, the 4th in the series of our distinguished personality Lecture took place on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023.

The University played host to His Excellency, Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari CFR, the Chief of Staff to the immediate past President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He delivered the Distinguished Personality Public Lecture titled "The relevance of University Education in Innovation for the advancement of Town and Gown Symbiosis". The erudition of his presentation was as refreshing as it was rewarding.

Federal University Lokoja Endowment Fund Launch

The Federal University Lokoja during this Convocation ceremony will be launching an endowment fund. The University is through this medium soliciting the support and contributions of all well meaning Nigerians to be part of this launch while using this opportunity to appeal to the good people of this State, especially our Politicians to assist the University in its bid to put all these physical structures in place.

I want to assure the public that funds generated will be judiciously and efficiently managed for the continued development of the University.

Projects for Endowment

The Projects for endowment are as follows:

- i. 500 Seater capacity Lecture Theatre to cost N502,102,000.00
- ii. 500 Bed Space capacity for Student Hostel - N2,437,920,000.00
- iii. Research Laboratory Building with Equipment - N309,540,000.00
- iv. Engineering Workshop - N239,240,000.00

- v. 400 Capacity Bed Space Hostel for Medical Students - N1,770,640,000.00
- vi. Anatomy Laboratory for Medical Students - N1,622,565,400.00
- vii. Lecture Hall for College of Health Sciences - N364,260,000.00
- viii. 500 Capacity Auditorium - N554,640,000.00
- ix. Faculty of Law Library - N496,135,200.00
- x. Moot Court for Faculty of Law - N192,880,000.00
- xi. 500 Capacity Multi-Purpose Hall/Assembly Hall - N512,460,000.00
- xii. Mass Communication Building - N385,460,000.00

Conclusion

I want to sincerely appreciate your presence at this Pre-Convocation Press Briefing while enjoining all of you to participate fully in all the activities lined up for this combined Sixth and Seventh Convocation ceremony of our dear University.

Though the University (FUL) is still young, I am happy to inform you that our graduates are all doing well in their respective fields.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

Professor Olayemi Akinwumi, Ph.D, FHSN, AvHF, FNAL
Vice-Chancellor