

## **Speech Delivered by Isah zafirah Eneyamire the Best Graduating student on the Occasion of the 6th and 7th Convocation of Federal University Lokoja,21st October 2023.**

The visitor,His Excellency,Ahmed Bola Tinibu,GCFR, president and commander in chief of the Armed forces of Federal Republic of Nigeria,The chancellor,His Royal Highness Alh,Dr muhammadu Abali ibn Muhammadu Idrissa,The pro chancellor and chairman of the 3rd Governing council of Federal University Lokoja,The vice chancellor,prof Olayemi Akinwumi aid members and management, distinguish awardees,graduants, ladies and gentlemen.I have the wonderful privilege of standing in front of you all today to deliver the valedictorian speech at the sixth and seventh convocation ceremonies. . I'm presenting this speech not just as the best, but as a representative of the class of 2020/2021, a class of dogged, intelligent, and well determined individuals who have fought very hard to achieve this giant stride. All Praises be to Allah .

This academic journey has been filled with ups and downs, pains and gains, tears and laughter, shame and glory and a whole lot. The struggle began from the very first day I stepped into this school, from trying to meet up with lectures while completing my registration which was very stressful for me as a first year student. Going further, senior friends told me how difficult it was to pass some certain courses, seeing some other people's poor results on the notice board all created some sort of fear and pressure on me. Aside my academic activities, I was actively involved in extracurricular activities, serving as an executive at MSSN FUL and also helping my mates with tutorials at different times, as a result I often had busy weekends, sometimes even staying at a friend's place to ease transportation and ensure easy access to school.But I was determined to do my best, I knew with hardwork, dedication, group work and studies with friends, I could change the narrative and by the special grace of Allah, it has been achieved today.

Our academic expedition was not just about grades; it was about the lessons learned from every challenge and the inspiration drawn from every success. As we step into the future, let us carry the wisdom gained during our academic years. Let us be the embodiment of knowledge, compassion, and innovation. Our journey doesn't end here; it transforms into a new chapter, where the lessons of our academic odyssey will continue to guide us toward excellence and fulfillment.

I am reminded of Theodore Roosevelt's wise words as we approach the start of a new chapter in our lives: "Believe you can and you're halfway there." These words serve as a reminder that self-belief is not only a catalyst to success but also the foundation around which our accomplishments are constructed.

My speech will not be complete if I fail to acknowledge some very special individuals who have played a massive role to help me achieve this huge success.

First and foremost, I would want to express my gratitude to Almighty Allah, may his name always be exalted, for providing me with the courage, insight, and understanding that have enabled me to get this far.

with utmost humility and sincerity I will love to appreciate my beloved parents Mr and Mrs Isah Anate Jimoh, for their unfailing love, support, care and prayers at all times, I pray you will live long to eat the fruits of your labor. I could remember the first piece of advice my father gave, he said "**university Education is easier than Secondary education, All you have to do is read your note after every lectures**". I took this words to my heart and kept them in mind, Indeed your sacrifices have earn me this.

I also want to express my gratitude to the faculty members who have contributed to my character and academic development, from the Head of Department, Prof. O.W. Salawu, to all the lecturers who are too numerous for me to list here. May God reward you all with his benevolence. I will always be grateful to my mentor, professor MS Audu, and his wife for the priceless roles that they have played in my life as a mother and father. I will always treasure their support and guidance.

Time will not permit me to mention the names of my dear friends, who have helped me in countless ways. I pray that God almighty will help you all in times of need too.

I want to leave you with this thought: **our journey doesn't end here; it merely transforms.** As we step into the future, let's carry the knowledge, friendships, and resilience we've gained. Let's be fearless in pursuing our dreams, kind in our actions, and relentless in our pursuit of excellence. Congratulations, Class of 2020/2021. Our potential is limitless, and I have no doubt that each of us will make a significant impact in the world, I envisioned you all at the top. Thank you, and best of luck on our extraordinary journeys ahead.