



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA

(OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR)

P.M.B 1154, LOKOJA, KOGI STATE

VICE-CHANCELLOR: Professor Olayemi Durotimi Akinwumi *PhD, AvHF, FHSN, FNAL, fspsp*

REGISTRAR: Dr. Rebecca Aimiohu Okojie *B.Sc (Uniben), MBA, M.Sc, Ph.D (Unilorin), MAUA, CL (ACU)*

PRESS BRIEFING BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA, PROFESSOR OLAYEMI AKINWUMI ON THE COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE 8TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2024 AT FELELE CAMPUS

Protocol

- Principal Officers of the University
- Provosts, Deans and Directors
- Heads of Departments/ Units
- Professors
- Members of the 8th Convocation Planning Committee
- Distinguished Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with a heart full of gratitude to Almighty God that I address you today as we commence the activities marking the 8th Convocation Ceremony of the Federal University Lokoja (FUL). This convocation is particularly significant, as it is the third ceremony since I assumed office as Vice-Chancellor of this great institution.

I welcome you to this auspicious meeting where I will be briefing you on the giant strides the University has made since the last 6th and 7th Combined Convocation Ceremony which held on October 21, 2023.

GRADUATION STATISTICS FOR THE 8TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

In this year's convocation ceremony, a total of 1,863 students will be conferred with first degrees, 117 students with Diploma, and 216 with Postgraduate comprising Ph.D, Master's and PGD. The classification of degrees to be awarded is as follows:

ANALYSIS OF GRADUANDS FOR 2022/2023 SESSION

UNDERGRADUATE

S/N	FACULTIES	TOTAL
1.	Faculty of Arts	447
2.	Faculty of Education	153
3.	Faculty of Management Sciences	99
4.	Faculty of Science	783
5.	Faculty of Social Sciences	381
	Total	1,863

DIPLOMA

S/N	DIPLOMA	TOTAL
1.	Diploma (Regular)	91
2.	Diploma (Ice)	26
	TOTAL	117

POSTGRADUATE

S/N	POSTGRADUATE	TOTAL
1.	Ph.D	7
2.	MASTERS	190
3.	PGD	19
	TOTAL	216

SUMMARY

1.	Undergraduate	1,863
2.	Postgraduate	216
3.	Diploma	117
	TOTAL	2,196

CLASSIFICATION OF DEGREE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

	FIRST CLASS	SECOND CLASS UPPER	SECOND CLASS LOWER	THRID CLASS	PASS	TOTAL
TOTAL	41	461	974	384	03	1,863

This is a significant moment not just for the university but for the graduands and their families, as it marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

We are also proud to announce that, as part of this year’s ceremony, Honorary Degrees will be conferred on eminent personalities who have contributed immensely to the development of the university and the nation at large.

These individuals have demonstrated exceptional commitment to service, leadership, and nation-building, and we are honored to celebrate them during this convocation.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate our students. Their achievements are a source of immense pride for all of us at the University. As they prepare to embark on the next phase of their journey, we encourage them to carry with them the values they have learned here at FUL—respect, integrity, innovation, dedication, and diligence.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to the distinguished personalities who will be receiving honorary degrees during this convocation. Your contributions to the development of this university and to the nation have been remarkable, and we are honored to celebrate your achievements.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 8TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The 8th Convocation Ceremony of Federal University Lokoja will span 7 days, and I am pleased to share with you the programme of activities as follows:

Day 1: Monday, October 21, 2024

Event 1: Press Briefing by the Vice-Chancellor

Venue: Council's Chamber, Felele Campus

Time: 10:00 AM Prompt

Event 2: Colloquium in Honour of Professor Olu Obafemi

Venue: Multipurpose Hall

Time: 12:00pm Prompt

Day 2 : Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Event: Founder's Day

Venue: College of Health Science, Adankolo

Time: 10:00am Prompt

Day 3 : Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Event: Research Fair/Exhibition

Venue: College of Health Science, Adankolo

Time: 10:00am Prompt

Day 4 : Thursday, October 24, 2024

Event 1: Convocation Lecture

Venue: Multipurpose Hall, Felele Campus

Time: 2:00pm Prompt

Topic: Nigerian Educational Sector: Issues and Challenges to be delivered by Nahzeem Olufemi Mimiko, Former Vice-Chancellor, Adekunle Ajasin University.

Event 2: Convocation Play

Venue: College of Health Science's Auditorium, Adankolo

Time : 6:00pm Prompt

Day 5: Friday, October 25, 2024

Event 1: Juma'at Prayer

Venue: University Mosque, Felele Campus

Time: 1:30pm Prompt

Event 2: Chancellor's Night

Venue: Reverton Hotel

Time: 5:00pm Prompt

Day 6 : Saturday, October 26, 2024

Event: Convocation Ceremony

Venue: Convocation Arena, Felele Campus

Time: 10:00am Prompt

Day 7 : Sunday, October 27, 2024

Event: Inter-denominational Thanksgiving Service

Venue: College of Health Science's Auditorium, Adankolo

Time: 10:00am Prompt

SCORECARD: OUR SITUATION REPORT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the 6th and 7th Combined Convocation Ceremonies in 2023, we have made remarkable progress across various fronts:

Expansion of Academic Programmes and Strategic Partnership

I am pleased to announce that our university has received approval from the National Universities Commission (NUC) for the introduction of several new academic programmes. These include LL.B. Law, D. Pharm (Doctor of Pharmacy), B.Agric, B.MLS (Medical Laboratory Science), and B.Ed. Educational Management and Planning. Admissions for these programmes are ongoing for the 2024/2025 academic session, reflecting our commitment to broadening the academic opportunities available at our institution.

In addition, the NUC has approved the full-time delivery of eight academic programmes to be run in affiliation with Federal Polytechnic, Auchi, Edo State. These programmes include B.Sc. Microbiology, Biochemistry, Industrial Chemistry, Public Administration, Banking and Finance, Mass Communication, Computer Science, and Statistics. We are also proud to collaborate with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, National Assembly, Abuja, for postgraduate studies.

This partnership will greatly enhance our academic offerings and provide access to quality education and advanced studies for a broader audience.

Preparations for the 2024/2025 Academic Session

As we celebrate the successes of our graduands, I am excited to share that the Federal University Lokoja is gearing up for the 2024/2025 academic session. We are proud to offer 58 undergraduate programs across 10 faculties, providing a diverse range of academic opportunities for our students.

This year, over 17,000 candidates chose FUL as their first choice, with more than 11,000 scoring 160 and above in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and participating in our Post-UTME Screening exercise. We plan to admit 9,000 students into these programs, and I am thrilled to announce that the new academic session is scheduled to commence on November 10, 2024.

Accreditation Success and Upcoming Accreditation Visits

I am delighted to inform you that the outcome of the recent NUC accreditation exercise has been overwhelmingly positive. Of the 42 programs submitted for accreditation, 34 have received full accreditation, while eight (8) were granted interim accreditation. This remarkable achievement underscores our university's unwavering commitment to maintaining high academic standards and delivering quality education to our students.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share that we are expecting the second accreditation visit by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) in the first week of November 2024. This is a significant step toward securing full accreditation for our College of Health Sciences. Additionally, the National Universities Commission (NUC) is also scheduled for a second accreditation visit, ensuring the continued quality of our programs. We are also awaiting the visit from the Council for Legal Education, which we anticipate by the first week of November. This programme accreditation by these regulatory bodies is crucial to the continued growth of our academic programs, particularly in the fields of Medicine and Law, and we are fully prepared for these upcoming visits.

Partnership with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA)

I am excited to announce a landmark collaboration between our university and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) under the Energizing Education Programme (EEP). Through this initiative, our campus will benefit from reliable power generated from renewable energy solutions, including the installation of campus-wide street lighting and the establishment of renewable energy training centers. This partnership marks a significant step towards ensuring a sustainable energy future for our university, while also enhancing our capacity for research and specialized training in renewable energy.

Establishment of FUL Zoo and Conservatory

In line with our commitment to advancing tourism, research, and community service, I am pleased to announce that Federal University Lokoja has established the first-ever Zoo and Conservatory in Kogi State. This newly commissioned facility will not only serve as a significant hub for research and education but also provide a unique platform for community engagement and environmental conservation. It stands as a testament to our dedication to enriching both the academic and cultural landscape of our state.

Inaugural Lectures

It is worth noting that prior to my assumption of office in 2021, only two inaugural lectures were held at our university. However, I am proud to share that we have successfully conducted a total of twenty-two inaugural lectures since then.

Between the last convocation and now, we have hosted seven inaugural lectures, covering a diverse range of topics. These include "Solid State Physics: Materials Development for Sustainable Energy Technologies" presented by Professor Tajudeen Oladele Ahmed, and "Weaving the Tapestry of Northern Nigerian Fictional Imaginaries from the Provincial to the Pluriversal" by Professor Abel Joseph. Additionally, Professor Kehinde Victoria Fatokun delivered a lecture on "Transforming Chemistry Instructional Practices: Navigating through Resolving Learning Intricacies and Integration of Innovative Pedagogy," while Professor S.D. Musa discussed "Geography and Sustainability: Unraveling the Myths, Reality, and Practicability."

Furthermore, Professor David Kolawole Omole's lecture titled "Making the Best of Available Opportunities in Search of Knowledge on a Windy Path" and Professor Olajide Ifedayo Ibieta's "Why Reforms Fail in Nigeria's Public Bureaucracy: A Public Administrationist's Perspective" added to our rich academic discourse.

Most recently, Professor Anthony Ayodele Bamidele explored the theme "Beyond Entertainment: Unraveling the African Novel as a Utilitarian Art."

These lectures have significantly contributed to our academic community, fostering knowledge and dialogue on critical issues.

Public Lectures

In our commitment to fostering engagement with critical societal issues, we have prioritized public lectures as a cornerstone of our mission at Federal University Lokoja. Since our last convocation, we have successfully organized six impactful public lectures that have addressed a variety of important topics.

On **February 6, 2024**, Professor Ayo Omotayo, Director General of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, delivered a lecture titled "**Policy Summersaults: The Bane of Development in Nigeria's Public Service.**" This was followed on **May 7, 2024**, by Her Excellency, Ambassador Joanna Tarnawska, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Nigeria, who spoke on "**How to Effectively Pass Knowledge and Inspire Students in the Contemporary World.**"

Further enriching our discourse, Mr. Olorundare Sunday Thomas presented a lecture on "**Insurance Solution in Wealth Creation and Sustainability**" on **June 10, 2024**. The renowned Professor Oyewale Tomori then addressed the audience on "**The Conflicting Confluence of Science and Society**" on **July 25, 2024**.

On **September 25, 2024**, Barrister (Hon.) Zainab Marwa-Abubakar, Ph.D., tackled the critical issue of "**Addressing the Intersectionality of Poverty and Gender in North-Central Nigeria.**" Finally, on **October 15, 2024**, Professor Jimmy Adegoke concluded our series with his thought-provoking lecture titled "**A Tale of Two Cities: Climate Threats and Economic Opportunities at the Confluence of the Great Rivers Niger and Benue.**"

These lectures have significantly contributed to our academic community, fostering dialogue and engagement on pressing societal challenges.

Establishment of the Centre for Distance and E-learning and the Institute of Gender Studies

I am excited to share that the Centre for Distance and E-learning has been established by the Management to promote flexible learning through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This centre was unveiled by Professor Som Naidu, Principal Associate at Technology, Education & Design Associates in Melbourne, Australia. The establishment of this centre signifies our commitment to adapting to modern educational needs and providing diverse learning pathways for our students.

Similarly, I would like to highlight the establishment of the Institute of Gender Studies by the University Management to prevent sexual misconduct and to promote gender equality. This initiative reflects our dedication to fostering a safe and inclusive academic environment for all members of our university community.

Infrastructural Development

I am pleased to share, that despite the challenges posed by a dwindling economy and limited funding, the University has made strides in carrying the following projects since our last convocation. Many of these initiatives are the result of personal efforts undertaken by the Vice-Chancellor and his dedicated team:

- i. Construction of 4- Storey Senate Building in progress
- ii. Construction of Faculty of Engineering (Phase 1)
- iii. Procurement, Installation, Testing and commissioning of furniture and Equipment for 12 Nrs of Laboratories at the Faculty of Science
- iv. Construction of Assembly Hall in progress
- v. Construction and furnishing of Faculty of Law Building (ongoing)
- vi. Construction of Auditorium in progress
- vii. The on-going construction of a state-of-the-art Lecture Theatre made possible through the philanthropic contribution of Dr. (Mrs.) Gladys Makoju and her family
- viii. Construction of Perimeter Fencing at the University Permanent Site (Ongoing)

- ix. Construction of 11km Ogodu-Inabe Road with Drainages and Culverts in Olamaboro Local Government of Kogi State
- x. Renewable energy support for street lightening across selected wards in Ibagwa, Enugu (LOT-5).
- xi. Construction of One (1) Block of Two (2) Classrooms with Office, Store, Furnishing and Installation of Solar Power in Federal University Lokoja Junior Secondary School.
- xii. Renovation / Rehabilitation of the ICT Building at Adankolo campus
- xiii. Renovation/ Rehabilitation of the Library Building at Adankolo campus
- xiv. Electrification of the University Permanent Site, Felele campus
- xv. Positioning of integrated street lights around selected departments in Federal University Lokoja for a greater illumination
- xvi. Provision of an alternative energy source (Minigrid) in selected administrative buildings.

Project Donations from Philanthropic Individuals and Corporate Entities

Federal University Lokoja has greatly benefited from the kindness and support of both individuals and corporate entities. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the significant donations our university has received recently:

- i. The ongoing construction of the Central Laboratory Building, generously funded by BUA Cement.
- ii. The on-going construction of a state-of-the-art Lecture Theatre, made possible through the philanthropic contributions of Dr. (Mrs.) Gladys Makoju and her family.
- iii. Substantial donations of multi-million naira medical equipment, books, and computer systems from Dr. Uche Nwankwo, a valued friend of the university, in partnership with International HOPE, Canada.
- iv. The gracious donation of a Lawn Tennis Court to enhance our recreational facilities for staff and students, courtesy of Honourable Mukadam Asiwaju Asiru Idris, FCA, the Honourable Commissioner of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning.
- v. The contribution of the Faculty of Pharmacy Complex by Alhaji Ahmadu Saleh, the Madaki of Lokoja.

Federal University Lokoja Endowment Fund

At our last convocation, we successfully launched the Federal University Lokoja Endowment Fund. This initiative is crucial for sustaining our growth and enhancing our facilities. I want to take this opportunity to appeal to the good people of this State, particularly our political leaders to support the University in this regard.

The projects for endowment are as follows:

S/N	Project	Quantity	Approximate Cost(N)	Total (N)
1.	Coaster bus	2	40,000,000.00 each	80,000,000.00
2.	Hummer bus	3	25,000,000.00 each	50,000,000.00
3.	Ambulance	1	30,000,000.00	30,000,000.00
4.	Accounting Lab	1	50,000,000.00	50,000,000.00
5.	Mass Communication Studios	10	60,000,000.00 each	600,000,000.00
6.	Five public toilets	5	2,000,000.00 each	10,000,000.00
7.	Laptops	30	500,000.00 each	15,000,000.00
8.	Desktop computers	50	250,000.00 each	12,500,000.00
9.	Office furniture	20	1,500,000.00 each	30,000,000.00
10	Printers	20	600,000.00 each	12,000,000.00
11	Photocopiers	20	2,000,000.00 each	40,000,000.00

Conclusion

I want to sincerely thank you all for your presence at this pre-convocation press briefing. Your support and participation are invaluable to the success of this event. I invite and encourage everyone to fully participate in all the activities lined up for the 8th Convocation Ceremony of our dear University. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for Federal University Lokoja and our nation.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Professor Olayemi Akinwumi

Vice-Chancellor