President Muhammadu Buhari has called for concerted efforts by all stakeholders to solve the challenges of education in the country.

The President made the appeal at the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the University of Abuja, which was held on Saturday, 15th February, 2020.

Represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Abubakar Rasheed, the President noted that the challenges of education could not be overcome by government alone.

He said, “I must emphasize that universities must maintain a certain level of stability, with uninterrupted academic activities, if the overall objectives of attaining national development goals with the universities as pivots are to be achieved. The task of overcoming the problems of the education sector is not a function and responsibility of government. It should emerge through a concerted effort of government, parents, stakeholders and the entire society.

“No nation has achieved appreciable socio-economic development without tangible transformation in its education system. In view of this national perception, education will continue to be a high priority item in my government’s drive to transform the economy. Government will continue to provide Nigerians equal and massive access to education at all levels such that they can fulfill their dream of participating in the nation’s socio-economic development and empowerment of our youths. I believe, fervently that advancement in education at all levels, will guarantee our collective drive to grow the economy for the betterment of all.”

The President added, “Government will continue in its..."
HELP US SECURE OUR LAND, UofA COUNCIL PLEADS WITH FG

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Abuja, Alhaji Sani Maikudi, has appealed to the Federal Government for more support so that the University can secure its vast territory from encroachments. The Council Chairman made the appeal at the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the UofA, on Saturday, 15th February, 2020.

Alhaji Maikudi, while expressing gratitude to the Federal Government for the support it has rendered to the University over the years, stated that the University needed more to protect its land from trespassers and extend developmental projects.

Recalling the activities of the Council, the Pro-Chancellor noted that since May 2017, when the 8th Governing Council came on board, it had conducted “transparent selection processes that had led to the appointments of three Principal Officers of the University, namely, the Vice-Chancellor (1st July, 2019), Registrar (12th November, 2019) and Bursar (7th February, 2018), following the expiration of tenure of their predecessors.”

He added, “Today, we all can bear witness that the transparency in the process has resulted in the appointment of credible and competent individuals who are now doing well in their various chosen capacities.”

He continued, “The Governing Council would continue to discharge its responsibilities well, through policies that would encourage and guarantee a conducive learning and work environment for students and staff, and ensure that the University maintained zero tolerance for any form of indiscipline and that due diligence and transparency are demonstrated in all our affairs, including the appointments, discipline and promotion of staff.”

The Pro-Chancellor praised the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, for having demonstrated “an unequal zeal and commitment to leading this great University to new heights,” assuring him that the Council will continue to work harmoniously with the Management in ensuring that the University maintains its good image and assumes its rightful place in the class of first-rate universities.

According to the Council Chairman, recent developments in the University attest that the U of A is poised to rid itself of the menace of indiscipline.

He called on staff to continue to demonstrate high sense of exemplary character, intellectual and moral rectitude as well social responsibility, stressing that it is necessary that staff treat students with the same level and respect they would show their own biological children.

The Pro-Chancellor expressed confidence that the graduands had been certified to be law abiding and resourceful and were ready to be good ambassadors of the U of A.

While noting that the journey to graduation has not been without hiccups, he challenged the graduands to continue to be strong and resolute, because “your graduation today places upon you a different burden and responsibility that of using the acquired knowledge to improve the fortunes of the country.”

Maikudi expressed appreciation to the immediate communities for their hospitality and support in helping to maintain a conducive learning environment for students and staff.

26 U OF A STUDENTS BAG FIRST CLASS

Twenty-Six students of the University of Abuja graduated with a First Class Honours degree during the 2018/2019 Academic Session. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, who disclosed this at the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the University, Saturday, 15th February, 2020, said 886 of the students graduated with a Second Class Honours (Upper Division); 2,317 graduated with a Second Class Honours (Lower Division); 339 finished with Third Class, while 52 had a Pass Degree.

A total number of 10,331 students were graduated this academic session, out of which 3,666 students were First Degree graduands (Regular Programme); Postgraduate Diploma, 139; Master’s degree, 212; Ph.D, 14 and Centre for Distance Learning and Continuing Education, 3,000.

The students cut across various faculties, including Science, Law, Engineering, Social Science, and Education.

The Vice-Chancellor said, “Today, the University of Abuja is formally graduating a total number of 10,338 students who have met the prescribed requirement of being worthy in both learning and character to be awarded various degrees and diplomas by the institution.”
PRESIDENT BUHARI CALLS ON STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

Cont. from page 1

The President reassured Nigerians that he would continue to explore all possible avenues to address the challenges of youth employment. “The N-Power Volunteer programme, a stop-gap measure aimed at tackling unemployment, under which a total of 500,000 unemployed graduates were engaged over a three-year period as a short-term approach, while government will endeavor to provide lasting economic measures in its fiscal policies that seem to reflate the economy and open up employment opportunities over the years,” he said.

BELOW IS A TABLE SHOWING THE BREAK DOWN OF 26 STUDENTS WHO BAGGED FIRST CLASS HONOURS IN THE UOFA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FACULTY</th>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ngene Chinenye Josephine</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>4.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Nasiru Habib Kayode</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>4.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Adoye Mathew Oluwasegun</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>4.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Hassan Aanuoluwape Comfort</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Zubair Haadir Muhammad</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Abdulaziz Abdullatif Adeshola</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Okereke Chinonso Joseph</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Oluoma Francis Adah</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>4.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ajani Omolabake Amina</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Oduwole Opeyemi Samuel</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Oguine Ozioma Collins</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Ajayi Oluwatosisin Adewole</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>AdelekeTaiwo Samuel</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Geography and Environmental Management</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Adebayo Michael Ademole</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Okafor Chukwuma</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>4.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Alex Sandra Chidimma</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Musa Maryam El-Yaqub</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Public &amp; Int’l. Law</td>
<td>4.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Elijah Chikezie Wayne</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Public &amp; Int’l. Law</td>
<td>4.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Ibrahim Aisha Abba</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Public &amp; Int’l. Law</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Zubair Habiba</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cont. on Page 4
The Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, has said the Management of the University is putting up drastic measures to sanitise the institution and redeem its image. Professor Na’Allah spoke at the University of Abuja 24th Convocation Ceremony, on Saturday, 15th February, 2020.

He said some of the measures the University had taken pertained to the conduct and management of examinations, general conduct of staff and students and a swift and decisive dispensation of justice on clear cases of misconduct.

On the conduct of examination, the Vice-Chancellor, said, “Previously, examinations were conducted, marked and results processed in such a manner that elevated and made individual lecturers and officers more powerful and influential than statutory bodies like the Departmental and Faculty Boards and even Senate. In this wise, the lecturers not only marked and submitted examination scores as and when it suited them, they also in cohort with the various departmental examination officers, handled the results in a manner that pleased them leading to loss of effective control of the process by the University Senate.

“In consequence, apart from late, and, often, epileptic release of examination results by the University, cases abound of extortion of money for marks, exchange of sex for marks, sexual harassment, falsification of academic records, absence of authentic Senate approved results for some programmes and avalanche of documented complaints and or requests for correction of results being collected from the Academic Affairs Division. This was definitely unhealthy, obnoxious and unacceptable to the nation at large.”

The Vice Chancellor, added, “Accordingly, the Administration has not only reinforced the time frame within which all examinations and related activities must be concluded in every semester, an integrated portal has been developed which ensures the timely, secure and uninterrupted conduct by all the lecturers and other officers involved in the process at all levels. Similarly, all the statutory organs involved at any level must give their imprimatur before results are passed to the next level for consideration.”

He said, at the moment, the lecturers were mandated to individually upload their results after marking of scripts, “and once they do that, they have neither access nor control over same.” Similarly, he pointed out that once the Heads of Departments and the Deans of Faculties upload and submits the results considered and approved by their respective Boards to the next level, the results become inaccessible and beyond their control up to the point of final approval by the University Senate.

“As it were, apart from the safety of examination results, the new arrangement and process also...
WHAT WE ARE DOING TO REDEEM IMAGE OF UofA, VC
guarantees due process in effecting corrections and or changes to the results since no individual lecturer other than the statutory bodies are permitted to consider and process same up to the Senate level. On the whole, the new system in place is such that going forward, the Senate's statutory role in the conduct and management of examinations and related activities is effectively restored paving way for the eventual release of credible results by the University as and when due.

Speaking on the renewed staff and student discipline, he reiterated the University's resolve to zero tolerance for unethical conduct and obnoxious practices such as sexual harassment, cultism among others, which he affirmed, was enhanced by “the swift and decisive dispensation of justice whenever a case is appropriately established and determined against any staff or student.”

The Vice Chancellor recalled that UofA recently took some disciplinary actions against some staff and students who were found to have committed unethical acts and thereby, breached the extant rules and regulations of the Institution. He revealed that there were yet, numerous reported cases of such misconduct being looked into and considered by appropriate committees in the University. “Some of these cases,” he explained, “have been there for years hitherto unattended to or were being handled shoddily with obvious intent to subvert the cause of justice or even kill them.”

Professor Na’Allah asserted that he would do all that was within his power to ensure that the name, image and vision of the U of A remained sacrosanct, and that whoever attempted to drag the University’s name through the mud would be appropriately dealt with.

He said he was determined to change the narrative about the UofA through “renewed purposeful conduct of staff and students as a basis for the envisaged transition of the Institution to the next level of academic excellence in all ramifications.”

He therefore, urged all members of the University Community to key into the new resolve of ensuring orderly and systematic transformation of the University to great heights.

THE NIGERIAN YOUTH SHOULD ARM SELVES WITH RIGHT KNOWLEDGE, HIGH COMMISSSIONER OF BANGLADESH

The High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria, Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan has called on the Nigerian youth to arm themselves with requisite knowledge so as to deal effectively with challenges of real life.

Mr. Shameem Ahsan gave the advice while delivering the Convocation Lecture of the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the University of Abuja, on Friday 14th February, 2020 on the Main Campus.

The High Commissioner, who was the guest lecturer at the occasion, noted that only about 7% of the world population had the good fortune to access university education.

“I can safely say that it is not the time for you to wait for others to lead you but it is your time to assume the leadership role as agents of change!” he stated.

Mr. Ahsan who said the world was currently being plagued by war and conflicts as well as other vices, added that student can bring about the desired changes and urged them to help create an environment of mutual respect and tolerance irrespective of ethnicity, colour, race or religion. He called for concerted efforts in the development of Nigeria’s abundant resources and the need to expand schooling to skill and economy based knowledge.

Also Speaking Group Managing Director of Integrated Intelligent Imaging, West Africa Limited, Mr. Wole Tella urged the graduands to begin to think of how to contribute their quota to the development of the country, and not depend on the government for their employment. He said the parents as well as the government had made a lot of sacrifices to lead them where they are today and that it was time to start facing the challenges of life after school.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah while expressing his appreciation to the High Commissioner, said the UofA was looking forward to a solid relationship with the High Commission of Bangladesh in Nigeria and even more robust relationships with many universities in Bangladesh.

“I hope that in no distance future we will have some of our students who are on a study abroad in Bangladesh”, he said.

Mr. MD Shameem

High Commissioner, said the UofA should arm itself with knowledge and prepare itself to face the challenges of real life.

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“I hope that in no distance future we will have some of our students who are on a study abroad in Bangladesh”, he said.
Former Governor of Kwara state, Major General Alwali Jauji Kazir (rtd) and Malam Ibrahim Buhari Tubali (Narambada), foremost Hausa musician have been conferred with doctorate degrees by the University of Abuja.

Announcing the award at the 24th Convocation ceremony of the University, Saturday, 15th February, 2020, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, said the awardees were chosen on their merit.

He said the recipients of the awards were, Major General Alwali Jauji Kazir (rtd), who was conferred with the University of Abuja Honorary Doctorate Degree of Political Science (honoris causa), and Mallam Ibrahim Buhari Tubali (Narambada), the first-class oral singer and famous royal court musician of the late 19th Century in Hausa land, northern Nigeria, who was posthumously conferred with the University of Abuja Honorary Doctorate Degree of Literature (honoris causa).

The VC said “In taking the decision and selection of the awardees for its honorary doctorate degrees, the University of Abuja, not only took cognizance of the extant template set by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian universities for award to not more than three recipients at a time, but also spread the same to reflect the local, national and international levels of its engagements.

“More importantly, we focus mainly on our values of service, talents, patriotism, commitment to peace and tranquility for greater development for humanity. These people have proved to be excellent examples of the values of our university and we are proud to lend our name to them.”

Responding on behalf of the recipients of the honorary awards, former Governor of Kwara State, Major General Alwali Kazir, rtd, said, “It gives me immense pleasure to stand before this august gathering to deliver these remarks on behalf of the distinguished recipients of the Award of the honorary doctorate degree of the University of Abuja, that include a posthumous award to the late poet and Hausa musician, Alhaji Narambada and my humble self.

“When I learnt of the award, what came to my mind instantly was, the diverse background of the awardees: A Prime Minister of a foreign country, a traditional musician of blessed memory and a military officer who retired from service nearly 24 years ago.”

The retired military officer, expressed gratitude to the Council, Senate and the management of UofA, for finding him and his fellow awardee worthy to be honoured as distinguished recipients of the doctorate degree.

**Ibrahim Buhari Maidangwale Abdulkadir Tubali (NARAMBADA)**

Narambada is the nick-name of Ibrahim Buhari Maidangwale Abdulkadir Tubali. He was born around 1890 and died in 1963 at the age of 73. He was the first class Oral Singer in the late 19th century in Hausaland. His mother’s name was given as Riba who was a Babarbare with tribal facial marks. His mother hailed from “Badarawa Village” in Shinkafi District of the present Zamfara State. Narambada was the first Court musician of Isa (Masarautar Isa) during the reign of Late Sarkin Gobir Amadu Bawa II. He composed more than four hundred (400) songs on different topics and occasions.

The following are some of the traditional rulers for whom Narambada composed his songs:

- In Sokoto, he composed for Isa, Sarkin Gobir Sabon Birni, Bagaja etc.
- In Zamfara, he composed for Gusau, Tsafe, Kotarkwashi, Moriki, Kaura etc.
- In Zazzau, he composed for Ja`afaru and others.
- In the old Katsina kingdom, he composed for Sarki Dankulodo of Maradi in Niger Republic.

In Hausa tradition, Narambada is named: “Karen Makada” because he did not inherit songs from his father, but his mother “Riba” was said to have been a daughter of a popular court musician of “Badarawa” recognized as a drummer.
PRE-CONVOCATION LECTURE

Mr. Shammen Ahsan (left) in a warm handshake with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Na’Allah

From Left: Mr. M.d Shammen, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. R.Mundi and Registrar, Malam Y. Mohammed

The Pre-Convocation Guest Lecturer, Mr Ahsan delivering his Lecture

Mr. Ahsan, being presented with a plaque by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah

VC, Registrar, Guest Lecturer and Bursar singing the National Anthem

The Vice Chancellor (centre) Guest Lecturer, (left) and guests after the 24th Convocation Lecture
COCKTAIL PARTY

Professor Na’Allah, his Wife, Dr. Asiata Na’Allah and some members of staff at the buffet stand

R-L (The Registrar, Malam Yahya I. Mohammed chat with the Bursar, Malam Rufai Ahmad Babba

The University Librarian, Prof. R. I. Echezona and the HOD, Political Science, Prof. Abba Sadiq, watching the buffet table

Members of Staff and guests helping themselves to some snacks

The VC declaring the Cocktail open
CONVOCATION PLAY

R-L (Prof. Na’Allah; Hon. Jerry Alaogbaso, the Playwright; and the Director of the Play, Dr. Olympus Ejue)

The Vice Chancellor, having a handshake with the actors/actresses of the play

A cast of the play “Sorters and Sortees” on stage

Actors/actresses on Stage

Actors/actresses on stage

Choristers on Stage
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Gen. Alhaji Kazir (rtd.) and wife displaying his Award

L - R (The Register; VC, Kazir and Pro-chancellor)

Procession of members of UofA Governing Council

UofA Alumni President, Mr. Musa D. Thomas at a procession

Dr. (Mrs.) Ugochi Uwazie Leading a Procession

Choristers singing the National Anthem
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

L-R (Pro-Chancellor and the VC welcoming the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. S. E. Bogoro and NUC, Prof. Rasheed respectively

The VC and Pro-Chancellor adorning one of the Honourary Awardees, Gen. Kazir (rtd)

VC, Pro-Chancellor and NUC ES singing the National Anthem

Prof. Na’Allah in a handshake with Gen. Alhaji Kazir

A Procession being led by the Registrar, Malam Yahya Mohammed

Pro-chancellor (R) in a handshake with one of the PhD graduands
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

A Procession of Senate Members

Members of the UofA Governing Council in a group photograph with the Executive Secretaries of NUC and TETFund

A Procession of visiting Vice-Chancellors from Sister Universities

A Cross Section of Deans of Faculties and Visiting Vice-Chancellors

Graduands at a Procession

A Cross section of members of Senate
CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The Overall-Best graduating Student, receiving an award from Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

One of the First Class graduands in a handshake with the Pro-Chancellor

Representatives of the Chancellor & Emir of Zazzau, His Highness Alhaji Shehu Idris

A cross section of invited guests
The University of Abuja was overwhelmed with goodwill messages from universities across the country. In a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, the vice chancellors of sister institutions congratulated the graduands and felicitated with the University.

The goodwill messages read in parts:

**COMMITTEE OF VICE CHANCELLORS OF NIGERIAN FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES**

“Mr. VC Sir, your relentless commitment to providing quality education through teaching/learning, innovation, research and character moulding of youth over the years is not in doubt. Hard work, strive for excellence and innovation have always been your watchword. Your specific interest in developing curricular for programmes that are not currently run by Nigerian Universities and in community engagement as core value for Universities makes you stand out as a forward looking Academic. As you celebrate, the CVC/AVCNU is proud to associate with you and wish you continuous excellence in all you pursuits.”

Professor Yakubu A. Ochefu FHSN, MNAL
Secretary-General

**KWARARAFU UNIVERSITY, WUKARI, TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

“Your relentless commitment to provide quality education through teaching/learning, innovation, research and character molding of youth over the years is highly commendable. Kwararafa University is proud to associate with you and wish you continuous excellence in all you pursuits.”

Professor Sunday P. Bako
Vice-Chancellor.

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI, NIGERIA**

“We at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi are proud to be associated with the outstanding achievements of your Institution, particularly harnessed under you able and purposeful leadership in various fields of academic endeavor.”

Mrs. H. N. Nyitse, FPA
Registrar & Secretary to Council & Senate

**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA**

“The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) heartily felicitates with University of Abuja, Abuja on the occasion of her 24th Convocation Ceremony.”

Professor Abdalla Uba Adamu
Vice-Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria.

**LANDMARK UNIVERSITY, OMU-ARAN, KWARA STATE**

“Your contributions towards the delivery of quality higher education in Nigeria through unwavering commitment to academic excellence and the highest levels of discipline and morals are undeniable. We are proud to associate with your accomplishments.”

Professor Adeniyi Olayanju
Vice-Chancellor
BAZE UNIVERSITY ABUJA
“We are indeed delighted with the outstanding successes recorded by University of Abuja over the years. It is our sincere wish that the Almighty will continue to guide the University aright in all its activities.”
Professor Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN
Vice-Chancellor

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY GASHUA
“It is indeed a privilege for me to be part of this historical event. This is really a special occasion in the history of the University of Abuja. You have done well for graduating the 24th set of students of your University, which is a landmark and highly commendable.”
Professor Andrew Haruna, PLAN, MNAL, FCPA, FSPMDP.

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY LOKOJA
“We are proud to associate with you and the Management of the University of Abuja as you send forth the 24th set of your graduates to make their enviable contributions to the socio-economic development of our dear Nigeria, Africa and the world.”
Professor Angela F. Miri
Vice-Chancellor

COVENANT UNIVERSITY IDIROKO ROAD, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA
“Covenant University is delighted to be associated with you on this occasion and seizes this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the common aspirations and collaborations we both share in the pursuit of excellence in the education industry.”
Professor A. A. A. Atayero
Vice-Chancellor

NILE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
“The impressive performance and outstanding achievements of the University over the years has been a source of joy and inspiration particularly to us at the Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja.”
“We pray that the Almighty God will continue to guide the University of Abuja in all her activities and grant her the grace to grow from strength to strength.”
Professor Dr. Osman Nuri ARAS
Vice-Chancellor

AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY, ILORIN, NIGERIA
“The impressive performance and outstanding achievements of the University over the years have been a source of joy and inspiration to us at AL-Hikmah University, Ilorin.”
Professor Taofeek Ibrahim
Vice-Chancellor

VERITAS UNIVERSITY, ABUJA, BWARI AREA COUNCIL FCT – ABUJA
“As a sister institution of higher learning, we are fully aware of the importance of Convocation Ceremonies in the Nigerian University System and globally. Convocations do not only represents the final stage of completion of studies for students, but also symbolise the hard work and efforts put in by the faculty and staff of your institution in moulding your students in character and learning. We therefore felicitate with you on this successful feat and wish your institution a successful Convocation Ceremony.”
Professor Chukwunonye M. Ojinnaka
Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, For: Vice-Chancellor
PROFESSOR GARBA SCORES 24TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY HIGH

Acting Chairman of the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the University of Abuja, Professor Stephen E. Garba, has described the event which held on Saturday, 15th February, 2020, as generally successful. He told the University of Abuja Bulletin that despite some hiccups, which are “not unusual with some well-planned events, the 24th convocation ceremony was very wonderful.”

Garba said, “I can tell you that all the activities, starting from the Vice-Chancellor’s press briefing on Wednesday, 13th February, 2020; the convocation lecture by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria, Mr. Shameem Ahsan, on Friday, 14th February, 2020, and then the main ceremony on Saturday, which was graced by important personalities and well-meaning Nigerians, were very wonderful.”

He, however, noted that some lessons had been learnt from the event, which would be useful in preparing for subsequent convocation ceremonies, adding that adequate and timely preparation is necessary for the success of any occasion.

“We commend the efforts of the Council, Senate, members of the management, indeed, our hard working Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, the convocation ceremony sub-committees, support from our students, staff and the entire university community, for the success of the event. The ceremony was just amazing,” the acting Chairman, said.

BINGHAM UNIVERSITY, KARU KEFFI EXPRESSWAY, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

“The Convocation of graduands from the various programmes of your University shows the great commitment on the journey travelled so far towards building the capacity of our teeming youths. We pray for God to give you strength and wisdom in pursuing the challenges ahead of you.

“Please, accept this goodwill message from the Senate and the entire Bingham Community in solidarity with you on these laudable objectives.”

Professor W. B. Qurix, OFR, FNIA, FIPMA, MNIM
Vice-Chancellor

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY WUKARI KATSINA-ALA ROAD, TARABA STATE NIGERIA

“I wish to congratulate you, your senate and council and indeed the staff and students of the University for coming this far. It is worthy of note that the University has attained further giant strides due to the collective efforts of the staff, senate and council under your guidance”.

“The University of Abuja has no doubt played a key role in the development of this country, I urge you to continue with this leading role as the Vice-Chancellor of the University”.

Professor A. M. Kundiri, FSSSN
Vice-Chancellor

NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI

“University of Abuja has undoubtedly carved out a respectable image for itself as one of the reputable Higher Institutions of Learning in our Country. Its contributions to the development of the nation are great and worthy of emulation”.

“As the University celebrates its Convocation Ceremony, the founders and Management of the University deserve commendation for establishing and sustaining the University. This is indeed a great feat”.

Congratulations!

Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed
Vice-Chancellor
Former Governor of Kwara State, Major General (Dr) Alwali Jauji Kazir (rtd), has said one of the surest ways to defeat the rising wave of insurgency in Nigeria is for the country to develop its team and produce its own armament.

Kazir made this observation at the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the University of Abuja held on Saturday, 15th February, 2020 on the Main Campus.

He said, “The most reliable method of assessing the military capacity and capability of a nation is its level of industrial development. Unless we are able to solve our myriad of challenges, we will continue to have a false sense of security, particularly if we depend on procuring arms and other needs for the military from foreign countries.

“The weakness of our country’s strength of security is in the area of technological dependence which had been evident over the years and is apparent in the current war on insurgency and terrorism in the North East and the fighting against other criminals in other parts of the country.”

He averred that the country’s focus should be on “security based industrial technology, a security complex that involves not only the military. The fight must not be abandoned to the military which in its efforts to ensuring security of the nation must be backed by, not only procurement of armaments but an industrial complex organized for serious armament research, development and production,” adding that in the modern world the military capability of nations is measured with reference to their industrial potentials.”

Kazir, a former Chief of Army, said with kidnapping for ransom banditry and clashes between different ethnic groups becoming the order of the day, the security situation in the country was becoming alarming, worrisome, “nightmarish and far from satisfactory.”

He, however, urged all hands to be on deck to defeat terrorism and insurgency, stressing that war is too important a business to be left to the military alone.

He said, “There must be a link between the importance of national security and the roles and contributions expected of other stakeholders apart from the military and other security agencies. The crisis of leaving the business of war to soldiers is the product of the misrepresentation of the sources of threat to a nation’s survival or security. This has been the problem of Nigeria’s national security strategy which has tended to isolate other arms and sectors while in pursuit of the goal of national security in a complex and volatile global environment. It is not just a military affair but something that encapsulates all facets of society from the educational institutions, UNIABUJA inclusive, through science and technology, manufacturing, and all facets of societal fabric.

“We must reverse the current situation whereby only the government cares for security; the private sector does not seem to be participating in the national security equation. The government on the other hand must go beyond budgetary allocations but instead create the enabling environment for adequate industrialization, science and technology and defence. There must be in existence an environment that would provide for society’s civil needs for human security and national defence in which the government and private sector both collaborate in a symbiotic relationship. The security and defence of the country and her citizens must be imbued as of concern to all stakeholders no matter their background.”

According to the retired Major General, though almost all nations of the world must have experienced one form of security crisis or another during...
Mrs Josphine Chinemye Ngene emerged the Overall Best Student of the UofA in the 2018/2019 Academic Session. She graduated from the Department of Statistics with 4.83 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). University of Abuja Bulletin brings you an interesting interview with her.

WHO SHE IS

My name is Josphine Chinemye Ngene. I am from Enugu State. I was born in Jos, Plateau State, where I had both my primary and secondary education at a private school, the Redeemed People’s Academy. I graduated from the Secondary school in the 2007-2008 Session, but had to wait four (4) years before I was able to gain admission into tertiary institution. I sat for JAMB three times, and it was the fourth time that I secured admission into Federal Polytechnic, Nasarawa. So I started my Ordinary National Diploma (OND) and by God’s grace, I graduated with Distinction in Mathematics and Statistics. After that, I had my one year Industrial Training (IT) here in Abuja with Guarantee Trust (GT) bank, then I applied for my Higher National Diploma (HND) back to Nasarawa and also Direct Entry to the University of Abuja. Thank God I got the admission into the University of Abuja in 2017 as a 200 level student to read Statistics.

HOW SHE FEELS BEING THE OVERALL BEST STUDENT

It is something I never saw coming. I think I was okay leading in the department. Then I heard rumours that I just might be the best in the Faculty. I also heard rumours that myself and one other girl in Engineering in the entire school were neck-to-neck. In my heart I was like, if God helps you and you get department, glory be to God. If by chance, Faculty gets to you, you have done exceedingly well. So that day, you know my heart was actually beating. My name was called as the best in the Faculty, I was so happy. As I was coming back to my seat, the best in the entire school was called and my colleagues were like ‘go back’ and I said ‘guys calm down!’ I was still going back to my seat, when they called my name as the Over-all Best, Oh my God! It was the best moment of my life! Magnificent! My parents and husband were so proud. The news travelled very fast my elder brother in Jos heard of it and called me. I was celebrated, honoured and humbled too. Thank God.

SUPPORT FROM RELATIVES

Morally and financially, my parents have been very supportive, and let me say that my brother, Lawrence Ngene, has been a rock. He actually believed in me. He studied at the University of Jos, but now he is into business. Then my husband took over. I got married in December, 2017 same year I got admission after my second semester 200 level.

ANY DELIBERATE STEPS THAT EARNED HER THIS RECORD

I can’t say there was anything I did that was spectacular. But there is the God factor; I return all glory to Him for making this possible. One of the things I held on to was something I read somewhere that said, “pray like you don’t read and read like you don’t pray”. That covers for the God factor because I was dedicated to my faith. When it was time to study, I did it like I had never prayed too. Then because nobody knows everything, I had friends that were good so I attached myself to them. I also took materials from my seniors too. I took my tutorials seriously and did not underrate anybody, despite the fact that it was my course mates that took the tutorials sometimes. These guys were better at something because like I said, nobody knows everything. So I took advantage of that and attended all my tutorials. So overall, I would say it’s some commitment. You know, I always knew I wanted to do well academically.

WHETHER SHE MADE ANY RESOLUTION AT ANY POINT THAT SHE WANTED TO GRADUATE WITH A FIRST CLASS OR NOTHING

Honestly, no. But I know I wanted to have a result that would make me happy. There was no First Class in my target. When I came to the University of Abuja, I didn’t know what the grades looked like. You know, I came out of a Polytechnic; we have Distinction, Upper, Lower Credit, so I was just like…you know, girl you need to do well, because there are people that have invested in you, so you need to make them happy, but sincerely, there was no First Cass in the picture. It was when I got my first result and it was within the first class range that I knew that it
ANY SPECIFIC PATTERN OF STUDYING?
I ensure I study within the weekdays. I don’t really study much at weekends as there are other activities for me to engage in. From 200 Level, I had a defined day for studying, because we have a specific timetable and also in 300 level so I knew when my lectures were to start and when they were going to end. That way I can fix myself. Mostly my lectures terminated at 12noon and I didn’t go back home immediately. I stayed back to study a little, I didn’t do much of library; I am not very okay with a quiet environment. So I don’t really think I had a wow pattern. And study in the class where there are still people around talking to distract me a little. You know reading can be boring and because of my course (Statistics) you don’t really need a very quiet environment, yeah, I am not trying to cram this thing, I am just trying to understand it, so I can occasionally look around. Sometimes when it’s too quiet, I wear an earpiece so I don’t sleep off. I go over what I have been taught today and the course I may be having tomorrow. So when these lecturers just come in and say “tear a sheet of paper”, and then I tend to do well, then it would look like I am intelligent. No! It was because I had looked at my notes yesterday, just in case someone wants to catch me unawares. Actually, I don’t do night reading, I advise proper rest. Sometimes when you do this Till Day Break (TDB) in the morning everything is cramped and your head is aching. Well, people are different any way, I don’t study in a quiet environment and that is why I don’t study in the night unless something that is very bulky otherwise, I just do the reading during the week and cover up everything I have to do.

MOST MEMORABLE DAY IN SCHOOL
My most memorable day was a sad day for me. That day we wrote a test, my older brother was getting married so I came to school prepared to travel after the test. We had our things in front of the class, and then after the test I couldn’t find my bag. Someone had taken it, my phone, my money, everything was gone. I was stranded, I cried, I was just coming into the University and this happened. But then it passed, there was a Good samaritan who lent me some money and I was able to go home. When the result of the test came out I was the best, 29/30 and I was very happy.

COMING TO UNIVERSITY OF ABUA AGAIN
The University of Abuja is great. The people I met here, I would not trade for anything in life. There are people you just know that God just placed strategically to help you in life. There is no way I could have told this story without these people, honestly. My lecturers, course mates especially, my project supervisor gave me so much push that I got to a point that I didn’t even know that it was possible for me. The project I did was something I wasn’t taught much about, but I was able to do it because there was somebody pushing me. My Head of Department too believed so much in me. It was an experience, it brought out the best in me. For people to hear that there is somebody like me is because of a platform like this, because of a school like this, because everything happened for a reason. That I am here is not by chance, it was designed by God, it’s destined to happen, I don’t know if this is happening in other universities.
The Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na’Allah, has assured students and staff of UofA that his administration will continue to provide the enabling environment for them to pursue legitimate goals in the University. Speaking at the 24th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, 15th February, 2020, the Vice Chancellor noted that students and staff of the University could best realise their dreams under a conducive atmosphere.

He said the University was making effort to enhance its academic activities, and had therefore consolidated or reorganized existing programmes, introduced new academic programmes and established new academic Centres and Units. Two of such set-up reorganized to conform with the current dynamics of the University, he stated, were the newly renamed Centre for SIWES and Student Employment (CSSE) and the Information Technology and Management Services (ITMS).

He also declared that his administration had recently established the Centre for Undergraduate Research, Centre for sponsored Project, University of Abuja International Centre, Internship and Linkages Services Unit, expressing confidence that those appointed as pioneer Directors of these centres or units are eminently qualified academics. “And I tell you that more similar bodies would come on board, as these academic entities constitute the lynchpin for the University's academic reinvigoration and transmission into a world class centre of excellence,” the VC said. He added that the centres would help achieve such a feat, through their encouragement and facilitation of cutting-edge researches in the University at both undergraduate and graduate levels, staff and students exchange programmes, academic collaborations, with world renown Universities and research Institutions, internships and linkages as well as fellowships.

According to Professor Na’Allah, another way his management is working to create enabling environment for students and staff is through rehabilitation of existing structures and facilities, including the students' hostels which were given a facelift before the resumption for the current 2019/2020 Academic Session. “A high-profile Committee led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) has recently been constituted to ensure that all the approved projects were concluded within the shortest possible time.

“There will also be regular maintenance of the structures and facilities to ensure their longevity and commensurate value addition to the University. This is in addition to improving the aesthetics of the various campuses so as to make the University assume and perfect its image as the face of public universities in Nigeria,” he said.

The VC affirmed that his administration would ensure the safety of all the assets of the Institution including University Premises, from the scourge of uncontrolled fires, through collaboration with the Nigerian Fire Service.

While stressing the resolve of his administration to lift the U of A to greater heights, he called on relevant stakeholders, both within and outside the University, for maximum cooperation and support.