



**OBAFEMI  
AWOLOWO  
UNIVERSITY**  
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA

# *Speeches Delivered*



Thursday 11th – Saturday 13th December, 2025

|                 |       |         |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Visitor         | ----- | 03 - 08 |
| Chancellor      | ----- | 09 - 14 |
| Pro-Chancellor  | ----- | 16 - 24 |
| Vice Chancellor | ----- | 26 - 48 |





## **SPEECH BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY,  
ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED  
TINUBU, GCFR,  
PRESIDENT AND  
COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF OF  
THE ARMED FORCES OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
NIGERIA AND VISITOR TO  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO  
UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE,**

**AT THE 2025  
CONVOCATION OF THE  
UNIVERSITY.**





**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ASIWAJU BOLA  
AHMED TINUBU, GCFR, PRESIDENT AND  
COMMANDER - IN - CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND VISITOR  
TO OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE, AT THE  
2025 CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.**

Protocol

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Osun State,  
Senator Ademola Adeleke  
The Honourable Minister of Education,  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission,  
The Chancellor of the University and Etsu of Nupe Kingdom,  
Chancellors of other Universities here present,  
The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council,  
Pro - Chancellors and Chairmen of Councils of other Universities here present,  
The Vice - Chancellor,  
Vice - Chancellors of other Universities here present,  
Other Principal Officers and Members of Council,  
Provosts of Colleges and Deans of Faculties,

Members of the Senate of the University,  
Directors of Centres and Institutes,  
Heads of Departments and Units,  
Heads of Extra - Ministerial Departments  
Academic and Non-Teaching Staff,  
My Dear Graduating Students,  
Distinguished Parents and Guardians,  
Esteemed Alumni and Friends of Obafemi Awolowo University,  
Other Specially Invited Guests,  
Gentlemen of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege to address this august gathering at the 49th Convocation of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife a premier institution of higher learning that continues to exemplify academic excellence, discipline, moral integrity, creativity and patriotic service.



This university stands as a monument to the vision of the sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, whose belief in education as the bedrock of freedom and progress remains timeless. That is: education is the light that can banish poverty, ignorance and fear. Today, we celebrate that enduring vision through the success of the new generation of today's graduands who have worked hard, who have endured and today, who have earned their victory. Congratulations.

Education remains the cornerstone of national development and the most powerful instrument for socio-economic transformation. A nation that invests in education invests in her future.

This administration will continue to accord top priority to revitalising Nigeria's education sector through reform, infrastructure renewal and enhanced access. We will also continue to strengthened policies and programmes that would make learning accessible, relevant and sustainable. We are determined to ensure that every Nigerian, regardless of background, enjoys the opportunity to learn, to create

and to thrive.

Our recently launched initiative, Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) stands as a testament to our commitment to equity in education. Through this initiative, indigent students in public tertiary institutions can now access interest-free loans to support their studies.

Beginning from the 2025/2026 academic session, the scheme will be expanded to include vocational and technical education, as well as introductions of book and accommodation allowances, in order to ease the financial burdens faced by many families.

Our goal is to democratise knowledge ensuring that talent, not financial status, determines the destiny of every Nigerian youth.

All over the world, no education system can rise above the quality and motivation of its teachers and the supporting staff. This government understands the challenges you face and are already working on a new salary structure and welfare package that would reflect your invaluable



contribution to national development. The Federal Government is, therefore, intensifying efforts to review the conditions of service and remuneration of university staff to reflect the realities of the present-day economy.

In collaboration with relevant staff unions within the university system and the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission, we are already developing a sustainable framework that rewards dedication, innovation and productivity while also ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Our universities must be places of harmony, not hostility; of collaboration, not confrontation. Government remains committed to dialogue as the surest path to lasting industrial peace in our tertiary institutions. Let us, therefore, continue to resolve our differences through dialogue and mutual respect so that our universities can remain open, stable, conducive and productive.

We are expanding opportunities for collaboration among the university system, industry, and government. Through the

University–Industry Linkage Programme, we also aim to commercialise research findings, promote entrepreneurship and create jobs for our graduates.

Institutions like Obafemi Awolowo University must continue to lead in research and innovation transforming ideas into impact, and knowledge into national progress, just as it has done for over 60 consecutive years.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations as you are stepping into the world with full of challenges but also full of opportunities. Use your knowledge to build, not to complain; to innovate, not to imitate. Nigeria needs your energy, your ideas and your integrity as I urge you to be courageous, creative and compassionate. Let your integrity guide your choices, and let service to humanity be your compass. Your generation represents the hope and promise of a better Nigeria.

Our nation looks up to you not just to succeed, but to make a difference in your chosen professions, in your communities, and in the global arena.



Wherever life takes you as ambassadors of this university, remember to carry the Great life spirit of excellence, courage and progress.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the story of Obafemi Awolowo University is inseparable from the story of Nigeria a story of resilience, vision and unyielding faith in the power of knowledge.

As your Visitor, I reaffirm my administration's unwavering commitment to education, to youth empowerment and to the dignity of labour.

Together, we shall build a nation where every child can dream freely, where every scholar can research boldly and where every teacher can teach with pride.

To the management and staff of this Great University, thank you for keeping the flame of learning alive. To the parents and guardians, thank you for your sacrifices. To friends, lovers and well wishers, thank so much for coming. And to the graduating students, another journey of your life starts now.

May your future shine bright, may your efforts bear fruits and may your endeavour continue to honour this great university and our beloved country, and may God Almighty crown all your efforts with resounding success.

Congratulations to us all.

God bless Obafemi Awolowo University.

God bless Osun State.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.





**SPEECH BY**

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS**  
**ALHAJI YAHAYA ABUBAKAR,**  
**Etsu Nupe,**  
**CHANCELLOR, OBAFEMI**  
**AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY,**  
**ILE-IFE, NIGERIA.**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**  
**49TH CONVOCATION**

**ON 13TH OF**  
**DECEMBER, 2025**





**TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE  
CHANCELLOR OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE,  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS ALHAJI YAHAYA ABUBAKAR Etsu Nupe  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH (49TH)  
CONVOCATION ON SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2025**

The Visitor to the University, His Excellency, President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR;

The Executive Governor of Osun State, Senator Jackson Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke;

The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Marufu Olatunji Alausa;

The Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, The Ooni of Ife and Arole Oodua;

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council;

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebaye Simeon Bamire;

Principal Officers of the University;

Distinguished Members of Senate and Council;

Respected Faculty and Staff;

Proud Parents and Guardians;

Invited Guests;

Gentlemen of the Press;

And our Distinguished Graduands;;

It is with profound joy, humility, and a sense of great responsibility that I stand before you on this

auspicious day, the 49th Convocation Ceremony of our distinguished institution. Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

This day marks a milestone, not only in the lives of our graduands but also in the continuing history of this great citadel of learning an institution founded on the enduring ideals of learning and culture, excellence, innovation, and service to humanity.

**Acknowledgements**

Permit me first to recognize and deeply appreciate the presence and unwavering support of the Visitor to our University, His Excellency, President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

Your Excellency, your commitment to education as a tool for national transformation continues to inspire both policy and progress in our nation. On behalf of the University community, we express profound gratitude for your administration's



strategic interventions to strengthen Nigeria's educational system and for your enduring faith in the power of young minds.

I equally acknowledge with gratitude the Governor of Osun State, Senator Jackson Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke, under whose jurisdiction this University is privileged to thrive. Your Excellency, your unwavering commitment to creating an enabling environment for academic institutions in the State of Osun is commendable. Your friendship and collaboration have continually strengthened the bond between this University and its host community.

To the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Marufu Olatunji Alausa, we express our heartfelt appreciation for your devoted service and your efforts to advance the quality of education in Nigeria. Your steady advocacy for improvement in research, science, and learning continues to uplift our institutions of higher learning.

Equally deserving of distinguished mention is the revered custodian of tradition and culture; His Imperial Majesty, Oba

Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, Ooni of Ife and Arole Oodua, whose steadfast support to the University and fatherly guidance to successive administrations have remained a beacon of goodwill and unity. Kabiyesi, your continued partnership with this University underscores your deep love for knowledge, culture, and the progress of your people. We remain profoundly grateful.

### **Tribute to Obafemi Awolowo University**

Distinguished guests, this University stands today as a national and continental treasure. Founded on principles of intellectual excellence, integrity, and social justice, Obafemi Awolowo University has, for decades, produced leaders who have profoundly impacted every sector of our national life, be it in science, governance, medicine, technology, entrepreneurship, or the arts.

In the enduring words of Albert Einstein, *"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."* These words remind us that education's ultimate purpose is not in memorizing knowledge, but in refining our ability to reason, to



question, to innovate, and to serve. Here at Ife, we have always aimed to cultivate intellects that are not only competent but also compassionate citizens who possess both knowledge and the moral courage to use it for the public good.

### **To Our Graduands**

Dear graduating students the Class of the 49th Convocation, you are the pride of this historic institution. Your years of study, sleepless nights, challenges, and triumphs have culminated in this beautiful moment of academic victory. You have not only acquired knowledge but have been shaped by the values that define this University, hard work, character, and community service.

As you step forward into the world beyond this campus, know that you are the torchbearers of a noble legacy. The world you are entering is complex one marked by rapid technological change, shifting economies, and a tightening global competition for ideas and innovation. But within every challenge lies opportunity.

Our beloved country, Nigeria,

needs the energy, creativity, and integrity of her youth more than ever before. We look to you to become the catalysts of economic renewal. Wherever you find yourselves be it in public service, private enterprise, technology, education, or agriculture, stand for excellence and innovation. In your pursuit of success, remember that every nation's prosperity depends upon the enterprise of its people. Do not wait for others to create opportunities for you, rise and create opportunities for yourselves and for others.

Be job creators, not merely job seekers. Every skill you have acquired, every discipline you have mastered, can become a source of innovation and livelihood for many others. Let your ideas become businesses; let your initiatives become platforms that employ others, and let your courage become an inspiration for your peers, not just seek them. Build enterprises that uplift communities. Use your education to reimagine possibilities and to break barriers.

Be responsible citizens of our great nation. Nigeria today requires a generation that will not



only speak of change but live out change. Uphold the values of honesty, integrity, and diligence which this university has so faithfully instilled in you. Let your conduct in private and public life bring honour to your families, your alma mater, and your nation.

Remember, a university education finds its full meaning only when it is used to improve lives and advance humanity. Be bold, be ethical, and above all, remain deeply patriotic. The future of Nigeria depends on citizens who combine knowledge with vision, and ambition with compassion.

### **On National Growth and Economic Transformation**

Distinguished guests, the theme of this convocation could not have come at a more pivotal time. Our nation aspires toward renewed economic vibrancy—anchored on knowledge, digital technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Universities like ours remain the crucibles of these aspirations. We must continue to fortify the bridge between academia and industry, between research and real-world impact. By doing so, Obafemi Awolowo University will remain a strategic partner in advancing Nigeria's competitiveness in the

global knowledge economy.

To our partners in government and the private sector, I appeal for continued investment in research, infrastructure, and innovation. The knowledge economy is built on the collaboration between thinkers and doers. Our students and faculty are ready to contribute actively to national rebirth—what they need is the enabling environment.

### **Closing Remarks**

As we commemorate this 49th Convocation, let us reflect not just on what we have achieved, but on what lies ahead. May this ceremony remind us that education is a privilege that comes with responsibility to enlighten, to build, and to unite.

To our graduands, the future belongs to you. Carry the banner of Obafemi Awolowo University with pride and integrity. Uphold the motto of this great institution, *"For Learning and Culture."* Make a difference wherever destiny leads you.

May the Almighty continue to bless this University, our leaders, and our dear nation, Nigeria. Congratulations to the Class of the 49th Convocation. May your journeys ahead be fruitful, and your contributions everlasting.

Thank you and God bless you all.





**TEXT OF ADDRESS BY**

**THE PRO-CHANCELLOR AND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING  
COUNCIL, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO  
UNIVERSITY,**

**LATE PROFESSOR SIYAN  
OYEWESO, FHSN, FNAL,  
(1961-2025)**

**ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE  
49TH CONVOCATION,**

**HELD ON SATURDAY, 13TH  
DECEMBER, 2025**







**TEXT OF ADDRESS BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, OBAFEMI AWOLOWO  
UNIVERSITY, LATE PROFESSOR SIYAN OYEWESO, FHSN, FNAL,  
(1961-2025) ON THE OCCASION OF THE 49TH CONVOCATION,  
HELD ON SATURDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 2025**

**Protocol**

- The Visitor to Obafemi Awolowo University, His Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,
- Your Excellency, the Governor of Osun State, Senator Nurudeen Jackson Ademola Adeleke,
- Your Excellencies, other State Governors here present,
- The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa,
- Other Members of the Federal Executive Council here present,
- Members of the National Assembly here present,
- Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
- The Chancellor of our University, Your Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, the Etsu Nupe and Emir of Bida,
- Your Imperial Majesty, Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Babatunde Ogunwusi CFR, Ojaja II, the Ooni of Ife,
- Other Royal Highnesses,
- My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal,
- The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Abdullahi Ribadu,
- The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Sylva Togo Echono, OON,
- Members of the Obafemi Awolowo University Governing Council,
- Pro-Chancellors and Chairmen of Governing Councils of Other Universities here present,
- The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Adebayo Simeon Bamire,
- Other Vice Chancellors, Rectors, and Provosts here present,
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic, Administration and Research, Innovation and Development),
- The Registrar and Secretary to Council,
- The University Librarian,
- The Bursar,
- Provosts of Colleges,
- Deans of Faculties and the Dean of Student Affairs



- Members of the University Senate,
- Directors of Institutes, Centres and Units,
- Heads of Departments and Units,
- Chairman and Members of the University Ceremonials Committee,
- Members of the Congregation,
- The President and Members of the Great Ife Alumni Association,
- Presidents of Professional Bodies here present,
- Members of Staff,
- The Students' Union,
- Esteemed Parents and Guardians of our Graduands,
- All the Security Personnel here present
- Gentlemen of the Press,
- And our most celebrated guests of today - the Graduands, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very delighted to welcome you all, on behalf of the Governing Council and the entire university community, to the 49th Convocation for the conferment of Bachelor's Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Higher Degrees, and Honorary Degrees of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, a citadel of excellence, character, and service to humanity. Today, we assemble to celebrate the individual brilliance

and collective excellence of our graduands, as well as notable individuals who have distinguished themselves in their fields of specialisation and have also been pillars of support for the growth and advancement of our University and society in general. We thank God for preserving our lives and for giving us the grace to hold and witness this year's Convocation.

I wish to humbly welcome our Visitor, His Excellency, President Asiawaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. On behalf of the Governing Council, I thank Mr. President for the great honour accorded us, by appointing us as Council members to serve our dear nation, particularly in the education sector. Your Excellency, we hereby collectively pledge our loyalty to continue to put in our very best in the discharge of our duties as Council members and also to express our determination to make a positive impact on the governance of the University to ensure sustainable development and to also contribute our quota to the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President.

I also have the honour to welcome our esteemed Chancellor, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya



Abubakar, CFR, the Etsu Nupe and Emir of Bida, who has the honour of being the presiding officer over today's event.

I wish to welcome and give due recognition to our revered royal father, His Imperial Majesty Babatunde Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, CFR, the Arole Oduduwa and the Ooni of Ife. I equally welcome other eminent royal fathers here present, our Kabiyesi. May your reign be long, peaceful and prosperous.

I want to recognise and appreciate our University Management, ably led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire and other members of his team for putting together this glamorous 49<sup>th</sup> Convocation, holding in this newly renovated and beautiful Oduduwa Hall Amphitheatre. The bold steps and innovations in the renewed amphitheatre by the Management are highly commendable, as it has demonstrated a commitment to infrastructural transformation of the University.

Special recognition to all our distinguished Council members, namely: Barr. Joseph Abaagu, Amb. Edwards Sarki, mni, Mr. Abubakar Kachalla, Professor Ralph Akinfeleye, Professor Abiodun Oladele Ayoka, Professor

Emmanuel Taiwo O. Babalola, Professor Akinloye Jimoh Farinde, Professor Saidu Oyarekua Oseni, Dr. Adewale Ajao, Dr. John Monday Etebom and Barr. Lere Bunmi Falode, our Global President of the Alumni Association. Last but not least is Dr. Olawale Lateef Kareem, representative of the Federal Ministry of Education. Thank you all for your commitment and support to the University.

Your Excellency and our dear Chancellor, Sir, I am pleased to report that since the inauguration of our Council, our University, under the able leadership of the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, has continued to make steady progress. The Council and the University Management have worked together to create a conducive, peaceful learning environment with no significant disruptions to the academic calendar. The Council has continued to focus on addressing the various challenges facing our University, particularly in resource management, human capital development, and infrastructure development. The Council has also provided the University Senate with the necessary support for curricula review in line with global best practices, enabling our graduates to become not merely job seekers

but job creators. In expanding the frontier of our academic programmes, the Governing Council, in exercise of its power to establish or reform any Faculty and upon recommendations of the Senate, has approved the establishment of two new faculties, namely the Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences and the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering.

In an effort to improve the University's infrastructure, the Council has continued to reach out to well-meaning individuals and governmental units. Thus, on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, the Council paid an official visit to the Governor of Ekiti State, His Excellency, Biodun Abayomi Oyeibanji. The meeting was very fruitful, with the Governor pledging to mobilise support to build a 1,500-capacity Ekiti Kete lecture hall for the University to enhance teaching excellence and learning. The Council also initiated the first-ever Distinguished Personality Lecture, which was delivered by the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, His Excellency, Barr. Nyesome Wike on the 5th June, 2025, in the Oduduwa Hall. The lecture was titled 'Nigeria of Our Dream' and following the lecture, the Honourable Minister pledged a donation of a building to

our Faculty of Law. Sincere appreciation to Governor Oyeibanji of Ekiti State and the Honourable Minister, Nyesome Wike, on this envisaged pledge to the University.

Chancellor Sir, the Council and the University Management have also organised a two-day Security Summit on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2025, in line with the implementation of the White Paper of the Report of the Visitation Panel of the Federal Government. The Summit has allowed us to review the University's security architecture to improve the security of the University estate and properties, as well as the University community.

I wish to place on record that since I came into office as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council, the University has received tremendous support from its alumni, through the Great Ife Association and its members in the Diaspora. The alumni helped with the renovation of Classrooms in the Faculty of Law, refurbished the emergency ward of the Health Centre, and donated three (3) electronic hospital beds with monitors. Council has continued to work on various initiatives related to Memoranda of Understanding, forging strategic partnerships with the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA),



the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), and GIC Motors.

Your Excellency and our dear Chancellor, Great life has continued to produce highly cerebral, intelligent, and talented scholars. We are proud of our products in the global space. We have also produced the pioneer Vice-Chancellor and Bursar of the Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Abeokuta, in the persons of Professor Fatiu Arogundade of the Department of Medicine and Mrs. Olufunso Adedokun of the Bursary Department, respectively. Similarly, our own Professor Ebunoluwa Aderonke Adejuyigbe, the Executive Director of our Centre of Research, was appointed the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo, and Professor Segun Ojo was appointed Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the Federal Medical Centre, Akure. In addition, Professor Temitope Esan of the Faculty of Dentistry was appointed as the new College Registrar of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Ijanikin, Lagos State. Special appreciation to our Visitor for appointing one of our distinguished Council members, Hon. Wahab Owokoniran, as the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman

of Council of Federal University of Transportation, Daura, Katsina State.

Your Excellency, on behalf of Council, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, continues to stand tall among the foremost institutions of learning, not only in Nigeria but across Africa. Council remains dedicated to policies and initiatives that will foster academic excellence, expand research frontiers, improve infrastructure, and deepen partnerships with industry and international collaborators. Let me use this opportunity to congratulate our recently elected new Council members, Professor Saidu Oyarekua Oseni, Dr. John Monday Etebom, and the recently elected new Global President of the OAU Alumni Association, Barrister Leye Bunmi Falode. I also welcome on board Professor Ralph Akinfeleye, who was recently appointed by the Visitor to replace Hon. Wahab Owokoniran.

I must not forget to congratulate our recently elected Deputy Vice-Chancellors, namely: Professor Ganiyu Adesola Aderounmu (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic), Professor Emmanuel Oluropo Akinfala (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration) and



Professor Akanni Ibukun Akinyemi (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovations and Development).

At this juncture, let me also congratulate our honorary degree awardees. It is noteworthy to say that your immense contributions to societal development and particular interest in the advancement of our University have earned you this honour. Therefore, we look forward to your full support for the University on all fronts.

To our graduands, I offer heartfelt congratulations. Your achievement is a testament to your resilience and commitment to academic excellence. As you move forward, remember that the knowledge and skills you've acquired here will be the foundation upon which you'll build your future. Today marks the culmination of years of dedication, sacrifice, and resilience. You have endured rigorous training, faced challenges, and triumphed. You are leaving this institution not only with certificates, but with the indelible values of hard work, discipline, critical inquiry, and integrity that define the OAU tradition. Your time at Obafemi Awolowo University has been a transformative experience, equipping you with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to

excel in your chosen fields. As you go forth, you'll be expected to take on leadership roles and responsibilities. Remember to uphold the values of integrity, hard work, and service to humanity. You're not just graduates of Obafemi Awolowo University; you're global citizens. Your actions and decisions will have far-reaching impacts. Remember, you will face challenges and uncertainties, but remember that these are opportunities for growth and innovation. And as you navigate your careers, harness the opportunities that come your way. Be creative, entrepreneurial, and committed to making a positive impact. As you succeed, remember to give back to your community and alma mater. Your contributions can make a significant difference in shaping the next generation of leaders.

We live in a world facing rapid transformations - technological, economic, and social. Artificial intelligence, climate change, shifting global economies, and new patterns of governance are redefining the future. To our graduands, as you leave the four walls of this University, I charge you to be ambassadors of excellence and integrity. Uphold the motto of this institution, "For Learning and



Culture". Contribute actively to national development, and let your light shine in whatever corner of the world you find yourselves. Remember always that the true worth of your degree is measured not by the paper in your hands, but by the impact of your actions on society.

To our proud parents, guardians, and sponsors, I say a big congratulations and thank you for your financial, emotional commitment and investment in the education of your children and wards, which led to their celebration today. You are highly commended. I pray that your efforts will be rewarded manifold.

In conclusion, my admonition to all our graduands is to be a good ambassador of our University by imbibing our core values, which include excellence, efficiency, integrity, hard work and transparency. We look forward to

your return to plough back into the University as a worthy ambassador and a life member of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. On behalf of the Governing Council, I once again congratulate you all. May your future be bright, and may the knowledge you have gained here empower you to change the world for the better.

Thank you, and God bless Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. God bless Osun State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Late Professor Siyan Oyeweso,  
FHSN, FNAL**

*Pro-Chancellor & Chairman,  
Governing Council  
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife*

- **Prof. Siyan Oyeweso passed on 2nd December, 2025. May Allah grant him Aljana Firdaus.**







**ADDRESS BY THE  
VICE-CHANCELLOR,**

**PROFESSOR ADEBAYO  
SIMEON BAMIRE,**

**AT THE  
48th CONVOCAION CEREMONIES  
OF THE  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY,  
ILE-IFE, NIGERIA**

**HELD FROM WEDNESDAY 11TH TO  
SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2024**

**AT ODUDUWA HALL OF  
THE UNIVERSITY**





**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR ADEBAYO SIMEON BAMIRE, AT THE 49<sup>th</sup> CONVOCATION CEREMONIES OF THE OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE, NIGERIA HELD FROM WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025 AT THE ODUDUWA HALL OF THE UNIVERSITY**

The Visitor, President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR; His Excellency, the President of Senate of Nigeria and the Convocation Guest Speaker, Senator (Dr) Godswill Obot Akpabio GCON; The Executive Governor of Osun State, His Excellency, Senator Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke; Distinguished Senators and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives; The Honorable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa; The Honorable Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo; Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present; Executive Secretary; National Universities Commission, Prof. Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu; Executive Secretary, TETFund, Architect Sunday Echono; The Chancellor, His Royal Majesty; Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya Abubakar; CFR, The Etsu Nupe The Ag. Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Barr. Joseph I. Abaagu; His Imperial Majesty; Oba Adeyeye

Enitan Babatunde Ogunwusi; Ojaja II; The Ooni of Ife Other Royal Fathers and Traditional Rulers here present; Visiting Vice-Chancellors from other Universities; The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor G. A. Aderounmu; The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor E. O. Akinfala; The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Development), Professor A. I. Akinyemi; The Registrar and Secretary to Council, Mr. K.A. Bakare; The University Librarian, Dr. (Mrs) O.A. Fadehan; The University Bursar, Mrs O. I. Abogan; Provosts of Colleges Deans of Faculties and of Student Affairs; Members of Senate Directors of Institutes and Centres; Heads of Departments Deputy Registrars and Deputy Bursars Members of Congregation; President, the Great Ife Alumni Association; Barrister Leye Bunmi



Falode and members of the Alumni Association;  
My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal;  
Presidents of Professional Bodies here present;  
Members of the Students' Representatives Council;  
Honoured Graduands  
Parents and Guardians of our Graduands;  
All the Security Personnel here present;  
Gentlemen of the Press  
Invited Guests  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen  
**GREAT IFE!!!**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With utmost gratitude and reference to God, it is my great pleasure to address this august gathering on the occasion of the 49<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. This is the fourth convocation gathering I am privileged to address as the Vice-Chancellor since assumption of office in 2022, and I am very happy to welcome all of you to this year's programme.

Convocation ceremonies have been a great platform to showcase the achievements of our great institution in teaching, research and service deliveries. It is on this occasion we celebrate academic excellence of our graduands who have been equipped to immensely make contributions to our national development. We have indeed sustained our frontline position in higher education service

deliveries and this development indeed thrills us as a flagship of academic leadership in Africa.

I especially welcome the Visitor to the University, the President and Commander in Chief of Armed Forces, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. We sincerely appreciate your presence and your great strides towards the development of education sector in the country. This University greatly appreciates your keen interest in revamping the educational glory of Nigeria to the envy of all nations, as evident in your educational policies, particularly review of curricula of studies even at the tertiary education level. We also appreciate the huge resources the Federal Government is appropriating to education and the prompt reaction of the Government to student and staff unions' matters in the ivory towers. We are honored to welcome the Convocation Guest Lecturer, His Excellency, the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio. We sincerely thank Your Excellency for honouring our invitation to deliver the 2025 Convocation Lecture and for your noteworthy kindness and contributions to our University. We appreciate the various efforts you have made toward the development of Nigeria, and we are confident that your shared perspectives in the lecture will provide a great insights on the challenges confronting higher education management in the country and illuminate the way



forward.

My special appreciation goes to the Chancellor of our University, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Yahaya Abubakar CFR, the Etsu Nupe and Chairman, Niger State Council of Traditional Rulers, for his presence at today's ceremony and the various ways he has assisted us to sustain the peaceful atmosphere in this institution. May God Almighty continue to strengthen you to fulfil your role as the Chancellor of this institution. I equally appreciate the roles of His Imperial Majesty (HIM), the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Babatunde Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, towards the development of this institution. The University community expresses its profound gratitude to Your Imperial Majesty for fostering an enabling environment that actively encourages institutional development. Specifically, we thank you for facilitating two major infrastructural and logistical improvements within the period: The beautification of Road 1, the provision of 50 CNG buses and 20 CNG tricycles by the First Lady of Nigeria, Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu CON, which will significantly ease transportation challenges within the University. We are confident that our institution is poised for further development through such exemplary gestures from our distinguished alumni and partners.

I wish to specially welcome to this great occasion the Executive

Governor of Osun State, His Excellency Senator Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke. We are grateful to you for your unalloyed commitment to the development of our University. We are convinced your Excellency will continue to support the welfare initiatives for our staff and students. May God continue to guide you in your efforts to make Osun State more peaceful, and in your various developmental initiatives, especially the infrastructural projects across the state and in Ile-Ife.

I wish to sincerely commend the University Council and the Management Team for their unwavering commitment to sustaining the peaceful academic environment on our campus. We were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. Siyan Oyeweso on 2nd December 2025. We pray for the peaceful repose of his soul and for God's comfort upon his family and the entire University community during this difficult time. I also wish to acknowledge the exemplary qualities of our Management Team, who continue to work with passion, resilience, and unity to address our institutional challenges and steer the University toward the transformation required of a 21st-century institution with global impact.

We thank God that there is no tension on our campus, and we remain



confident that He will continue to bless and guide our collective efforts to advance the noble mission of our University.

This 49th Convocation Ceremony marks the formal award of Diplomas

and Degrees to all candidates who have been duly found worthy in character and learning. I am pleased to present to this distinguished gathering the statistics of our graduands from the two Colleges, thirteen Faculties, and various Institutes as follows:

### **2025 GRADUATION INFORMATION**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Undergraduate Diplomas                            | 54           |
| Bachelor's Degree (Classified) from 9 Faculties   | 5,253        |
| Bachelor's Degree (Unclassified) from 4 Faculties | 296          |
| Postgraduate                                      | 959          |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>6,562</b> |

### **Breakdown of the Total Figure according to Classes:- .**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Total Undergraduate Diplomas:</b>                            | <b>54</b>    |
| Distinction   | 9            |
| Lower Credit  | 14           |
| Upper Credit  | 26           |
| Pass  | 5            |
| <b>Total Classified Degrees:</b>                                | <b>5,253</b> |
| First Class Honours   | 218          |
| Second Class Honours (Upper Division)                           | 2,132        |
| Second Class Honours (Lower Division)                           | 2,244        |
| Third Class Honours   | 625          |
| Pass  | 34           |
| <b>Total Unclassified Degrees:</b>                              | <b>296</b>   |
| Distinction   | 8            |
| Pass with Distinction   | 111          |
| Pass with Credit  | 0            |
| Pass with Honours   | 0            |
| Pass  | 177          |
| <b>Total PG College:</b>  | <b>959</b>   |
| Doctor of Philosophy  | 191          |
| Master Degree   | 705          |
| Postgraduate Diploma  | 63           |
| <b>Grand Total (Classified &amp; Unclassified Degrees + PG)</b> | <b>6,562</b> |



| <b>Breakdown of Undergraduate Programmes By Faculty</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Administration  | 649          |
| Arts  | 773          |
| Education   | 653          |
| Law   | 41           |
| Social Sciences   | 638          |
| Agriculture   | 476          |
| Basic Medical Sciences                                  | 136          |
| Clinical Sciences                                       | 4            |
| Dentistry   | 18           |
| Environmental Design and Management                     | 420          |
| Pharmacy  | 138          |
| Science   | 848          |
| Technology  | 755          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>5,549</b> |

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Congregation, and the Ceremonials Committee, I warmly congratulate and rejoice with all our graduands for their unwavering dedication to academic excellence. Your hard work, resilience, and commitment have earned you the various degrees and honours to be conferred during this Convocation. We are confident that you will apply the knowledge, skills, and values gained at Obafemi Awolowo University to the advancement of Nigeria and the global community. From today, you join the distinguished ranks of our cherished alumni-leaders and indeed ambassadors of the Great Ife tradition. Great Ife!

I also extend special congratulations to the parents, guardians, and family

members of our graduands. Today's achievements are a testament to your sacrifices, guidance, and unwavering support efforts that have indeed been blessed by God. We rejoice with you as you witness the fulfillment of the dreams and aspirations you have long nurtured for your children and wards.

Allow me to briefly review the collective achievements realized since the last Convocation ceremony of our University:

## **2. UNIVERSITY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The University Administration remains firmly committed to strengthening the standards of teaching, research, and service in our institution. Upholding the founding





objectives of Obafemi Awolowo University is of utmost importance to us. We will continue to deploy our human and material resources strategically to ensure sustainable development and to drive accelerated institutional growth. Over the years, we have recorded notable accomplishments, some of which include the following:

**(i) Academic Development and Collaborations**

Obafemi Awolowo University currently has a student population of about 35,000 and a workforce of approximately 4,000 staff. The University operates through two Colleges; the College of Health Sciences and the Postgraduate College and thirteen Faculties, namely: Administration, Agriculture, Arts, Education, Environmental Design and Management, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy, Science, Social Sciences, Technology, as well as the newly created Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences and the Faculty of Computing Science and Engineering. The University currently offers 94 NUC-accredited academic programmes, providing our students with broad and robust training opportunities across diverse disciplines.

In addition, the University has, in recent months, achieved notable

academic advancements and entered into strategic collaborations with several reputable organizations. These efforts are geared towards consolidating our status as a leading higher institution in Nigeria and across Africa. Some of these accomplishments include the following:

**(a) Inaugural Futureminds AI & Robotics BOOTCAMP (Community Service/Youth Development) August 4-8, 2025**

The inaugural edition of the OAU FutureMinds AI & Robotics Bootcamp took place from 4th to 8th August 2025 at the OAU ICT-Driven Knowledge Park (OAK-Park). Conceived as a 'town-and-gown' initiative, the programme brought together 59 exceptional students from secondary schools across Ile-Ife for an engaging and immersive introduction to Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Throughout the bootcamp, participants took part in hands-on practical sessions, soft-skill development activities, and interactive recap exercises designed to ignite curiosity and nurture innovative thinking. From low-code robotics projects to drone piloting and no-code AI model development, the experience combined technical learning with teamwork and creative exploration. The students built Arduino-powered robotic cars, examined feedback mechanisms in

decision-making, compared controller algorithms, and trained lightweight AI models using Google's Teachable Machine.

(b) **Launch of OAK.io, a Pioneering Line of AI-powered Smartphones and Smartwatches (September 17, 2025) Education and Research**

Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) has taken a major leap toward transforming healthcare in Africa with the unveiling of OAK.io, an innovative line of AI-powered smartphones and smartwatches, during the AI & Robotics in Clinical Practice Symposium. OAK.io is a university spin-off emerging from the OAU ICT-Driven Knowledge Park, and its debut products reflect Africa's growing ambition to compete globally while addressing local needs. The new devices, the X55 Smartphone and the FitBand X1 Smartwatch, come preloaded with AI-driven tools for healthcare diagnostics, crop monitoring, and educational support. They are expected to be commercially available by early 2026. The symposium, which attracted over 100 participants from across the world, held under the theme *"Transforming Healthcare: AI-Driven Solutions for Nigeria's Medical Future."* It showcased how homegrown technological innovation can tackle Africa's unique healthcare challenges and position the continent as a significant global contributor.

(c) **Modernisation of Digital Infrastructure and Capacity in 10 Nigerian Universities**

Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) was one of ten Nigerian universities to receive a grant from the French Development Agency (AFD) in August 2025. The funding is aimed at strengthening the digital infrastructure of the selected universities to enhance teaching, learning, and research through ICT-driven solutions.

(d) **The iDICE (Investment in Digital and Creative Enterprises) Project**

Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) was among the selected Nigerian universities to partner with the Federal Government's initiative, launched in August 2025, to provide skills training and startup support for young people aged 15 to 35. The programme also aims to promote entrepreneurship and innovation within the digital and creative industries.

(e) **Institution of Annual Academic Award in Honour of Professor S.O. Olusi**

Three annual academic awards, collectively known as the Professor Samuel Olusoji Olusi Memorial Prizes, have been established to recognise outstanding graduating students for their academic excellence and exemplary character.



These awards are to be announced each year during the Convocation Ceremony and are intended to continue in perpetuity. The awards are as follows:

- (i) **Professor Samuel Olusoji Olusi Memorial University Prize in Medicine,**
- (ii) **Professor Samuel Olusoji Olusi Memorial University Prize in Entrepreneurship, and**
- (iii) **Professor Samuel Olusoji Olusi Memorial Departmental Prize for Economics**

**(f) MicCom Cables & Wires Ltd Annual Financial Award**

MicCom Cables & Wires Ltd has instituted an annual financial award in honour of Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle, FNSE, for the Best Overall Graduating Student (BOGS) in the Faculty of Technology (One Million Naira) and the sum of Ten Million Naira (₦10,000,000) to the Department where the BOGS emerges in the Faculty of Technology. This award celebrates exceptional students and the invaluable role of their department in shaping and fostering the future of engineering and technology. The award is to be presented annually during the University Graduation Ceremony, starting this year, 2025. This is to empower the next generation of engineers.

**(g) Establishment of NITDA Innovation Hub (Through the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu CON)**

The NITDA Innovation Hub, established under the auspices of the Wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, has officially commenced development. Construction of the building began in August 2025 and is currently underway. Once completed, the Hub will serve as a cutting-edge centre for innovation, technology development, and digital entrepreneurship, further strengthening the University's commitment to ICT-driven solutions and capacity building.

**(h) Bank of Industry (BOI) and OAU Collaboration**

The Bank of Industry (BOI) and Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) are jointly initiating a comprehensive effort to foster employment generation and wealth creation. This collaboration involves the establishment of an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, which will be complemented by an integrated Scholars' Lodge.

**(I) Golf Course and Clubhouse**

We are delighted to report the construction of a state-of-the-art Golf Course and Clubhouse, generously donated by Engr. Lanre Adeleke, which will serve as a vital new relaxation and recreation centre for our staff and students. This

magnificent facility underscores our commitment to enhancing the overall welfare and quality of life within the University community.

#### **(j) Partnership with Origin Tech Group Nigeria Ltd.**

The University is in partnership with Origin Tech Group Nigeria Ltd for agricultural commercialisation and Entrepreneurship Development. The Company had donated 50 Chairs from its Furniture Warehouse to support the University. The planned partnership involves the development of a land space in OAU to house the following operations:

- (a) Showroom
- (b) Tractor Hub for the Southwest Region
- (c) Mini-Assembly Plant
- (d) Maintenance and service Centre, and
- (e) TOG Centre for Tractor Hailing/Hiring Services. Origin Tech Group is also collaborating with the Faculty of Agriculture to establish a 500ha Research for Development Project in the Teaching and Research Farm.

#### **(k) Endowed Professorial Chairs**

Professorial Chairs have been instituted at the Faculties of Science by (a) Prof. Olu Odeyemi Endowment Fund (₦100 million); (b) Alhaji Adeniji Professorial Chair in Biochemistry (₦100 Million). The University will continue to welcome and be grateful

to lovers of education who are ready to support the efforts.

#### **(l) Distinguished Lecture, Award of Excellence and Unveiling of the Bronze Statue of Chief Obafemi Awolowo**

On December 5, 2025, the University hosted a major event centered around one of Africa's most illustrious art patrons, Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon. The richly packaged programme successfully combined four significant activities: A Distinguished Lecture, Award of Excellence, the Official unveiling of the Bronze Statue of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, generously donated by Omooba Yemisi Shyllon, and World's Longest Painting of the Book of Genesis, created by Dr. Peacemaker Alexander Efeoghene (a mentee of Omooba Yemisi Shyllon), was showcased in a bold attempt to achieve a new world record, affirming art's power to shape culture and inspire generations.

#### **(ii) Academic Matters**

The Directorate of Academic Affairs has achieved significant progress in modernizing services, substantially boosting efficiency and the university's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). This involves: (1) Enhanced Productivity and Revenue through (a) Document Verification & Issuance. The Directorate



successfully verified over 5,000 academic documents, including certificates and transcripts, for alumni and students. This high volume of activity has directly contributed to boosting the university's IGR. (b) Certificate Backlog Clearance in which the Directorate has issued over 5,000 certificates to graduating students since the last convocation (c) Over 4,000 transcripts (both paper and electronic) have been generated, processed and successfully dispatched for local and international applications. (2) Digital Transition and Modernization involving (a) Electronic Certificates. With the approval and support of Management, the Directorate has transitioned from the old certificate proforma to a new Electronic Certificate System. The first batch of these new certificates is now ready for distribution to graduands. (b) Transcript Automation (Addressing Backlogs). The Directorate has initiated the automation of transcripts for the period 1990 to 1998, which were previously not auto-generatable through the e-portal. This crucial project, made possible by Management's intervention, will simplify the processing of these older records once completed, addressing the challenge of prompt transcript issuance. (3) The Transcript Unit is strategically engaged with key international evaluating bodies (the CGFNS and the Ontario Board of

Education) to streamline transcript verification for specific programmes, the Nursing Science Graduate transcripts, and the graduates of the Faculty of Education, respectively.

The introduction of the **Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND)** represents a transformative opportunity, ensuring that financial barriers no longer impede access to quality education for any deserving student of Great Ife. This initiative fundamentally supports our institutional goal of academic excellence by empowering our students to pursue their studies and research without the burden of prohibitive costs.

### **(iii) Research Excellence and Institutional IP Growth**

The university recently confirmed its strong commitment to promoting research excellence and institutional growth by honouring Alhaji (Dr.) Murtadha Adeyemi Adeniji with the 2025 Award of Excellence in Research Practice, continuing a tradition launched in 2023 which has since inspired and mentored over One Thousand OAU STARS by rewarding people whose work drives institutional development and amplifies the OAU legacy. Concurrently, the **Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO)** significantly bolstered

the university's asset base by securing six additional patents this year, thereby increasing the university's total intellectual property portfolio to sixty-one (61).

The university has made significant strides in fostering a culture of innovation, improving the visibility of its research outputs, and linking its products to commercial opportunities. First, to enhance visibility and access, the university is developing a comprehensive digital platform in collaboration with INTECU to showcase all existing patents, trademarks, and research outputs, a project already provided with seed funding. Second, the OAU Innovation Club actively nurtured talent by hosting seventeen (17) webinars this year, successfully building innovation and entrepreneurship skills among its membership of over 100 students and staff. Furthermore, the IPTTO leveraged external opportunities by launching an innovation challenge under the UNILAG-led I2M consortium, which yielded 18 submissions for potential prototype funding.

Finally, the university successfully attracted key external stakeholders during the July OAU Research Fair, where both the Osun State Commissioner for Trade and

Commerce and the Bank of Industry expressed concrete interest in three specific OAU products for immediate commercialization. In addition to the above, the Office is currently working towards expanding its staffing to include an IP lawyer, a research manager, and marketing officers, strengthening industry linkage teams to accelerate commercialization and securing increased funding for sensitization, training, and patent support.

**The Linkages and Partnerships Office (LPO)** has maintained momentum, demonstrating significant progress in establishing and strengthening key institutional collaborations and partnerships, which include but are not limited to the following achievements:

- OPAY Digital Services (Nigeria): Collaboration on digital service development (2-year MoU in the first instance).
- Airtel Nigeria Ltd: Five-year MoU on ICT and telecom partnerships.
- Rapid Lunch (Canada): Three-year MoU to promote international cooperation.
- Durban University of Technology (South Africa): Five-year MoU for academic and research exchange.
- Government Science Study Program (Indonesia): Five-year MoU on academic exchange and

collaboration.

- **Ongoing Engagements:** Continued oversight of more than 30 active local and international MoUs signed in previous years, ensuring their effective implementation.
- **Networking:** Maintained membership in AAU, ACU, WARIMA, and ANSTI to strengthen OAU's global research presence.

The **University Research Office (URO)** has demonstrated significant proactive administration this year, having successfully processed and circulated fourteen (14) research administration policies across all Faculties, Colleges, and Departments. In addition to this comprehensive policy dissemination, the URO has also attained the following key achievements:

- OAU secured Erasmus support for the MESITA Project (MSc in Smart Farming & IoT in Agriculture), coordinated by Prof. S. O. Ajadi.
- OAU successfully conducted monitoring and visitation of National Research Fund (NRF) Batch 8 projects in July.
- The University was represented at the TETFUND-sponsored training on “Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Nigerian

Universities System” (June–July 2025).

- The University signed an MOU with the British Museum (UK) for documentation and study of the Yoruba Sacred Drum Ensemble (Bàtá), led by Dr. Kolawole Adeniyi.

The university continues to reinforce its reputation as a leading global research institution. This commitment was formally recognized on October 28, 2025, when Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) received the prestigious Best African Agriculture KTP Project Award. This award-winning project, titled “Digital Technologies and Data-enabled Innovations for the Enhancement of Health and Welfare of Broiler Chickens in Southwest Nigeria,” was a significant collaborative effort led by Prof. Saidu Oseni from the Faculty of Agriculture, in partnership with universities in the West of England. The university is committed to sustaining this leading position both within Nigeria and across Africa, ensuring its research continues to drive the continent's growth and development.

#### **(iv) Enhanced Community Service, Partnerships, and Local Engagement**

The University has intensified its commitment to community service and strategic partnerships, focusing



efforts both on institutional development and on improving local welfare. Significant progress has been made in re-engineering the capacities of the Teaching and Research Farm and the Agriculture Farm to boost the production of basic food crops for consumption within the Ife community and its environs. Furthermore, the university actively sustains a cordial relationship with the people of Ife-Ife through a viable "town and gown" policy, consistently integrating input from the Ife community into institutional decisions, development strategies, and projects. Concurrently, the university has maintained and strengthened partnerships with various stakeholders in its management. This strategic engagement is specifically aimed at increasing the University's revenue generation drive and creating opportunities for broader institutional development.

#### **(v) Physical and Academic Infrastructure Development**

The University has experienced a major boom in physical and human capital development, primarily through sustained financial support from the Federal Government via annual appropriations, Needs Assessments, and TETFund Interventions.

The TETFund Office has executed a series of interventions that have significantly impacted the campus, focusing on both new construction and critical rehabilitation. These include:

(a) **New Constructions:** Key additions include the Student Affairs Building, Institute of Education Building, a new Student Hostel, Gate House/Perimeter Fencing, Academic Resource Centre, Medical Library, and the Aeronautical Engineering Building.

(b) **Rehabilitation:** Major facilities like the Music Department and Pharmacy Building were successfully rehabilitated, alongside the completion of work on The Oduduwa Hall and the Oduduwa Hall Amphitheatre.

(c) **Research & Equipment:** The URO is currently processing 27 proposals for TETFund approval for institution-based research and the supply of vital equipment.

The Financial support leveraged from the Federal Government appropriations has enabled the execution of a vast array of projects, resulting in widespread physical developments across the campus.

The key infrastructure Projects include: (a) Engineering and Science:



Multiple laboratory and office buildings were constructed for the Electrical/Electronic Engineering Department (including mechanical and electrical services and furnishing). The Aeronautical Engineering Department saw the completion of its building, external works, and the provision of mechanical/electrical services and furniture. (b) Academic Facilities: Projects include the construction of the Academic Resource Centre, the International Student Exchange Centre, the Medical Library, the Institute of Education, and multiple 250-Seater Capacity Lecture Theatres (including furniture and utilities). (c) Support & Access: Essential support structures like the Construction and Furnishing of the Gate House Building and Perimeter Fencing, 7 Public Toilets, and the OAU Business School Administrative Building were completed. (d) Health and Medical: Facilities such as the Construction and Furnishing of the Urology Surgical and Research Centre and the Seminar Rooms and Office Complex for the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex were executed;

and (e) External Works: Critical campus accessibility was improved through the Storm water, Drainage, and Pedestrian Walkway project, and the completion of key access roads linking various parts of the campus (Road 1 to Link Road 2 & 7 through EDM/College of Health Sciences).

The University has also launched strategic urban renewal initiatives within its core central zones, leveraging private-sector interventions to transform old structures into modern, smart facilities. This effort is aimed at creating a new centre of excellence and ambience on campus. Currently, this central precinct is the site of three major, legacy projects driven by high-profile donations: (a) An almost completed three-storey building now housing the International Central Office of Research, donated by Prof. Anthony Adegbulugbe. (b) The International Centre for Development, currently advancing through the mid-construction stage, donated by Alhaji (Dr.) Murtadha Adeyemi Adeniji (c) The International Centre for Innovation (the WEIRD Innovation Hub), for which foundation works are already in progress, donated by Prof. Yusuf Ali.

The University welcomes and encourages additional partners



interested in developing further legacy structures within these prime central zones.

### **3. OTHER MATTERS**

#### **(i) Students' Union Activities**

The University deeply appreciates the understanding and maturity demonstrated by the Students' Union in addressing institutional challenges. This positive collaboration has been instrumental in sustaining a peaceful campus environment and successfully avoiding disruptions to the academic calendar. Moving forward, the administration remains committed to involving the student body in decision-making processes, ensuring a collective responsibility for institutional success by keeping the lines of effective communication open with the student populace.

#### **(ii) Staff Welfare/ Training**

The Management of Obafemi Awolowo University has consistently prioritized staff welfare to foster optimal productivity across the institution. To this end, the University ensures dedicated attention to staff career progression by maintaining regular meetings of the Appointments and Promotions Committee, Administrative Staff Committee, and Junior Staff Committee to promptly address all promotion cases. Furthermore, the University

continues to provide an enabling environment for staff training and development. This commitment is supported by special, organized staff training programmes, which include:

#### **(a) Leadership Capacity Building for Senior Management- September 24, 2025**

The University Administration successfully conducted a one-day Capacity-Building Workshop specifically tailored for its senior leadership, including Provosts, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Departments. The workshop's primary objective was to equip the attendees with the requisite knowledge, leadership skills, and administrative competencies essential for effective service delivery in their roles. A total of 195 officers of the university participated in this key professional development initiative.

#### **(b) Resource Mobilisation and Grantmanship Programme: A One-Day Workshop for Academic and Non-Academic Staff. July 15, 2025**

The University Administration successfully organized a key one-day capacity-building workshop on 'Resource Mobilisation and Grantmanship programme' for both academic and research staff. The primary goal of this workshop was to

enhance the capacity of staff members in sourcing competitive research funding, among other strategic objectives. The programme saw strong participation, with 167 staff members attending, and featured Dr. Akanimo ODon, Director of African Partnerships at Lancaster University, United Kingdom, as the resource person. Concurrently, the Management continues to maintain a cordial relationship with all Staff Unions and remains committed to sustaining the peaceful co-existence between staff and administration.

### **(iii) University Staff Housing Scheme**

The University is actively working on a significant Staff Housing Scheme aimed at providing current and future retirees with the option to live in a beautiful, serene environment similar to the existing University Staff Quarters. To achieve this, the University has already secured a 125.487 hectare site near Osu, Osun State. The core objective of the project is to provide serviced land (including roads, water, and electricity) where staff can build homes at their convenience, provided the structures adhere to pre-agreed architectural models consistent with the existing Staff Quarters. Significant progress has been made: a developer has been selected to provide the necessary services and

building models. The current focus is on sorting out the technicalities involved in acquiring the Certificate of Occupancy from the State Government. The scheme is projected to benefit not only current staff and retirees but also the University's alumni.

### **(iv) Staff Recruitment**

The University has proactively addressed the urgent need for expanded academic and administrative staff, a need created by increased resignation, retirement, and relocation by successfully securing a relaxation of the government's employment embargo.

To strengthen its workforce across all service delivery cadres, the University implemented a comprehensive recruitment exercise passing through stages as follows:

- (a) **Advertisement & Screening:** Following advertisements in national newspapers, the University received applications and conducted a weeding test (October 4, 2025) and a subsequent CBT test (October 13, 2025) for non-teaching appointments.
- (b) **Interviews & Appointment:** Successful applicants from both the non-teaching pool and those shortlisted for teaching appointments were subsequently interviewed, and

- (c) Onboarding: The results for all successful candidates were processed, and appointment letters have since been issued, with all new staff members having resumed duties across the University.

**(v) Advancing Institutional Support through Alumni Engagement and Development**

The University is making concerted advancement efforts to bolster teaching, learning, research, student experience, and community service, with a strong focus on enhancing alumni engagement. (a) Alumni Data and Monitoring: The University has successfully compiled a robust database containing 80,649 alumni records, enabling the institution to monitor the academic and social progression of its graduates who continue to make significant national, continental, and global impact in their respective fields. (b) Stewardship and Donations: The University has effectively improved its Stewardship Culture by consistently acknowledging gifts and donations from alumni and other stakeholders. This commitment has yielded substantial support, including the establishment of 50 academic prizes by alumni for the direct benefit of current students this year alone. (c) Major Infrastructure Support: Distinguished alumni, both local and international, have demonstrated significant goodwill through vital

infrastructure support such as the construction of the State-of-the-Art Office of Research, fully financed by Prof. Anthony Adegbulugbe, has reached practical completion. A similar major project sponsored by Barrister Yusuf Alli SAN has been launched and is expected to be completed shortly for immediate University use. The Centre for Development Building donated by the MD/CEO of Starlink Global and Ideal Ltd., and the Clinical Legal Education Study Centre donated by Ahmed Adeniyi Raji SAN, of Ahmed Raji & Co., to the Faculty of Law. The buildings are nearing completion. We appreciate all these Donors and pray for God's continuous blessings on them. The University plans to sustain positive engagement with students to foster a culture of giving back to the institution in the future.

**(vi) Infrastructure Renovation and Modernization**

The University has maintained a strong commitment to sustaining its infrastructure through comprehensive renovation efforts, leveraging financial support primarily from TETFund and the Federal Government's Capital Appropriation. (a) Significant facilities have been successfully renovated and preserved through the following interventions (a) Academic/Support Buildings: Felting of the roof of the Social Sciences Building and the

renovation of the Institute of Ecology and the Gymnasium Building. (b) Residential Infrastructure: Renovation of several blocks within the Hostel Buildings. (c). Ongoing Renovation and Modernization Works. Several key infrastructure projects are currently underway across the University:

- Academic Facilities: Renovation of Lecture Theaters in the Chemistry and Physics Departments, and the Faculty of Administration Extension Building.
- Central Facilities: Renovation of the Oduduwa Hall and the Oduduwa Hall Amphitheatre , and vital Penstock Works at the University Dam.
- Processing is ongoing for the TETFund 2025 Annual Intervention specifically targeting the renovation of some dilapidated buildings, including additional Hostel facilities. Processing is also underway via a TETFund Intervention to replace the long-obsolete feeding panel at the central powerhouse, ensuring reliable power supply.
- Critical assets are being secured through Insurance Supports.
- The Critical Power Challenge: The issue of electricity is a major financial concern, with the University's monthly power bill

of over ₦200 million, while internal revenue only covers approximately one-quarter (₦50 million) of this cost. To address this disparity and acquire better consumption data, the University is considering campus-wide metering for all faculties and student hostels.

To secure stable power generation, the University is pursuing two major projects:

- Power Gas Project: This project is at approximately 70% completion, and recent government official visits have been made to determine the way forward.
- Solar Farm Power System: The University is prepared to release 25 hectares of land for this initiative, which is slated to generate about 10 MW of electricity and will be sponsored by the Federal Government and the World Bank.

Despite being a structurally strong first-generation university, many facilities suffer from decay, including leaking roofs and dilapidated buildings. This is primarily attributed to a paucity of funds. Several campus roads are in poor condition despite continuous, periodic repairs, creating a pressing need for external intervention. The University is currently focused on tackling severe

infrastructural and financial challenges, particularly regarding power supply and facility maintenance, while aggressively pursuing sustainable solutions.

Given the extent of maintenance needs, the University is making urgent requests for assistance to various organizations, including government ministries, parastatals, Alumni philanthropists, and other good people of Nigeria, to help support the maintenance of its facilities.

#### **(vii) Security of the University**

The University is intensifying its efforts to maintain the security of lives and property on campus through a broad, collaborative strategy, directly addressing recent security challenges. This approach requires the active cooperation and support of the entire University community and focuses on two key areas: enhanced security measures and strict enforcement of housing compliance. The University is therefore implementing a multi-faceted security framework based on technology, community engagement, and strategic patrol.

### **4. CHALLENGES AND CALL FOR STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT**

The University has maintained its position as a frontline institution, achieving substantial progress in teaching, research, and service

delivery. However, the institution's development aspirations are significantly hampered by diminishing funding capacities and inability to see through the completion of three key projects that are becoming abandoned in the University:

#### **(i) The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) Project:**

The University seeks the President of Senate's support to expedite the completion of the 8.03 MW Gas-based Power Plant, an Energising Education Programme (EEP) initiative that is currently stalled at nearly 70% completion, despite having commenced in 2018. Completing this vital project will ensure a conducive, safe, and secure environment for the University by providing a stable electricity supply.

#### **(ii) New Senate Building funded by CBN:**

Given the critical need for a modern administrative hub, the University requests the President of Senate's special intervention to secure funds for the completion of the our Senate Building, funded by the CBN, but currently stalled at 30-35% completion since 2023. Completing this conspicuous legacy project (located at the centre point of the University) is vital for improving the administration of our over 60-year-old first-generation University, thereby preventing its abandonment.

#### **(iii) Students' Hostel and Lecture Theaters:**

The University urgently

appeals for the Senate President's support in securing funding for the construction of additional lecture theaters and student hostels, as our existing capacity is severely overstretched by our rapidly increasing student population. Addressing this acute infrastructure deficit is essential to enhance the learning environment and improve the overall welfare of our students.

As stakeholders in education and national development, your intervention will not only restore hope to thousands of Students, Staff, and Residents of the University community but further stand as a testament to your legacy of service, leadership, and nation building.

## 5. APPRECIATION

In addressing the Convocation Ceremony for the fourth time as Vice-Chancellor, the current Administration expresses profound gratitude to the Almighty God for the divine support that has elevated the standards of teaching, research, and service delivery across the University.

I want to reaffirm that, with the unflinching support of the entire University community, the institutional vision and mission of transforming the institution into a cynosure of academic excellence will certainly be realized. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Visitor, President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu, GCFR, for his presence, alongside the Convocation Guest Speaker, Senate President Senator Godswill Akpabio. Thanks are also conveyed to the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, and the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, Alhaji (Dr.) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR.

Further gratitude is extended to the Executive Governor of Osun State, His Excellency, Senator Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke, and the revered Ooni of Ife, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Babatunde Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, along with all other Royal Fathers present. The crucial contributions of regulatory and funding bodies are recognized, specifically the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Abdullahi Yusuf Ribadu, and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Architect Sunday Echono, and all Dignitaries here present.

I greatly posthumously appreciate the dedication of Professor Siyan Oyeweso the late Chairman of the Governing Council and expresses indebtedness to all members of the Governing Council, Principal Officers, Provosts, Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors, and Heads of Units, and members of various committees for their constant support in managing the University. This extensive appreciation also encompasses all staff, students, Staff

Union Leaders, alumni, friends, donors, and other stakeholders for their unswerving support.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Obafemi Awolowo University is firmly established as a reputable citadel of knowledge, globally recognized for its sustained academic excellence and superlative service delivery.

The institution extends heartfelt congratulations to all graduands for the privilege of being products of "Great Ife!" The University offers sincere prayers and hopes that the graduates will find success in their chosen endeavors, achieve their dreams, secure employment opportunities, and attain greater privileges in life, with no cause to

regret their studentship. May God open ways for you to excel in your chosen endeavours as Obafemi Awolowo University will continue to prosper and attain greater heights, dedicated to the glory of God and service to humanity.

Thank you all for your attention.

**Great Ife!!!**

**Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire**

(B.Agric (Ife); M.Phil (Ife); PhD (Ife)  
Vice-Chancellor (13<sup>th</sup> December 2025)