

**ADDRESS OF THE VISITOR, HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR
ABDULRAHAM ABDULRAZAQ ABLY REPRESENTED BY THE
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR TERTIARY
EDUCATION, DR. MRS. MARY RONKE ARINDE AT THE 10TH
AND 11TH COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY HELD ON
SATURDAY DECEMBER 16,2023, AT THE MINI
CONVOCATION ARENA**

PROTOCOL

- Your Excellency, the 1st lady of Kwara State, Ambassador (Mrs.) Olufolake AbdulRazaq, ably represented by Hon. Bola Olukoju, Honourable Commissioner for Communication
- Right Honourable Speaker, Kwara State House of Assembly, Mallam Salihu Yakubu Danladi
- Chief Judge of Kwara State, My Lord, Hon. Justice Abiodun Adebara
- Members of the Kwara State Executive Council
- Members of the Kwara State House of Assembly and in particular, Chairman House Committee on Tertiary Education
- Judges of the High Court of Kwara State
- The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission
- The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund

- The Executive Secretary of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB
- Chancellor, Kwara State University, Engr. Dr. Johnson Bamidele Adewumi
- The Traditional Institution led by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari CFR and other highly revered Royal Highnesses here present
- My Lords Spiritual and Temporal
- Visiting Vice-Chancellors and Heads of other tertiary institutions
- Principal Officers of Kwara State University
- Provost of the School of Basic Medical Sciences
- Deans of the various Faculties of Kwara State University
- Members of Senate of the University
- Top Government functionaries and Security agents
- Political office holders in Kwara State
- Members of the University Community
- Distinguished Guests, and friends of the University
- My teachers, friends, colleagues, and former classmates
- My immediate and extended family
- KWASU Alumni here present
- Graduating students and proud parents and guardians
- Members of the 4th Estate of the realm
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to the combined 10th and 11th Convocation Ceremony of the Kwara State University.

We again acknowledge that education is the bedrock of any nation and the pivot upon which development rests. This is why our ^{self} has continued to invest significantly in the education sector. Our commitment is to all levels of education as they form a chain in the production of functional members of society. Any progressive government must prioritise education, and our government is a front-runner in this wise.

Like its precursors at the level of tertiary education in the state, Kwara State University was conceived to not just be another University in the list of state universities in Nigeria. It was established to produce graduates who will take their futures in their hands and move our state and nation forward in virtually all aspects of human endeavor. Kwara State University graduates are job creators. They are well-grounded individuals who must be found to be worthy in character and learning.

Our gathering here for this combined convocation ceremony is because Kwara State University has successfully bred another set of excellent young men and women who are set to take the world in their hands. For this, I congratulate the management, staff and students of this University for always staying true to the mission and vision of the university.

Today, Kwara State University is a reference among state-owned universities in Nigeria. The university has transformed the destiny of Malete in terms of growth and development. It is now an important town in Moro Local Government area of Kwara State. With the location of the university in the community, Malete, a once rural community has been transformed to a semi-urban centre with the provision and improvement of its social, economic, health and agricultural facilities. Malete is, therefore, an example of how educational institutions can help stem rural-urban drift and speed up development process.

I am happy to inform you that the Osi and Ilesha Baruba campuses of this institution will also be inaugurated next year, while another efforts to upgrade one of our Colleges of Education to a university of education, for

a start, are now underway. These initiatives are capital intensive, but we are committed to making them work for the good of our people. Converting one of our Colleges to a university is an urgency of now, given the crisis that colleges of education are facing nationwide. It will save people's jobs and improve the standard of everything that they offer, among other benefits. We have similarly set up Visitation Panels to the Colleges in our efforts to further put things in shape.

As we ramp up construction works at the campuses earlier mentioned, we are certain that the feat achieved in Malete will be replicated in Osi and Ilesha-Baruba when the other two campuses of Kwara State University become operational soon.

I am also glad to inform you that our medical students will now have a teaching hospital to train them as the state executive council has recently approved the upgrade of the Ilorin General Hospital to a teaching hospital of great standard. This historic transition is made possible by the huge infrastructural upgrades that have taken place in this hospital over the past

four years. Similarly, a lot of resources have been earmarked to add more equipment and prepare the ground for the take off of the teaching hospital.

The success of the university is, therefore, to the glory of God and all Kwarans of all persuasions.

The peace and stability in the University is a reflection of the larger Kwara, and we have all done our best in the attainment of peace, harmony, and tranquillity in the state. The tranquil atmosphere in Kwara State has no doubt assisted our government in delivering on its goals.

In view of this unwavering commitment to making Kwara a model, it is expected that citizens should reciprocate by willingly paying their dues and by being law-abiding. It is only when these are done that we can achieve our goal of inclusive development in our state.

Let me reaffirm our commitment to making Kwara State to truly live to its name of being "The State of Harmony."

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our greatest asset in this nation, Nigeria, is our youth, who, by their nature, fall into the hardworking, intelligent, and enterprising class. Their creative abilities are a thing of pride, which they are expected to step up by shunning all forms of social vices, including examination malpractices, cultism, hooliganism, sexual abuse, drug addiction, internet fraud, and other crimes, among others.

I am aware that the University has demonstrated zero tolerance for these and other vices. I, therefore, enjoin all students to be conscious of this and shun bad influences. You are reminded of your primary responsibility, which remains academic pursuit as the Ivory Tower cherishes industrious students who are rewarded for scholarship and good character, as we are witnessing today.

Our administration has established a number of facilities that are meant to support your dreams as young people. Interestingly, we have synergies with KWASU on a few of them. These facilities include the Visual Arts Centre, Garment Factory, Film Village, and the innovation hub. You are enjoined to tap fully into the opportunities these important state assets

offer you in the coming years. From here, you can create your own unicorns and make Kwara the next hub of innovation, technology, and enterprise. We have created that environment.

Distinguished Graduates, my charge to you is to recognize the sacrifices made for you by your parents, your teachers and your University, and strive to become good ambassadors of the university and your families. Let me, therefore, congratulate you for the feat you have attained, which climaxed into your graduation today, having been found worthy both in character and learning and admitted into your various degrees.

To the parents and guardians, it is a thing of joy to witness this moment of a dream come true. Your investments have actually yielded dividends. Please, accept my warm felicitations.

I like to place on record the giant strides attained by KWASU within the few years of its existence as an emerging world class University of the 21st century. It has been able to give proper account of itself as truly a center of educational excellence, committed to the expansion of the frontiers of knowledge, innovation, and advancement of the cause of humanity in

general. For maintaining its position as the University with the most stable calendar in Nigeria, I like to commend the untiring efforts of the management, staff members (teaching & non-teaching) and the students. It should be our collective resolve to leave no stone unturned in ensuring sustenance of this enviable record.

At this juncture, let me remind you of our administration's pledge since its inception in 2019 that we shall leave Kwara State and its people better than we met them. Our records and its positive impact in diverse areas of human endeavours in Kwara State clearly attest to this. The support of all well-meaning people of Kwara State, therefore, remains vital to the onerous task of working for the progress, stability, peace, and progress of our dear state. Governance is everyone's business; let us join hands to lift Kwara State and Nigeria to a greater height.

On this note, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely appreciate you all for coming to celebrate with us on yet another great achievement in the history of Kwara State University and indeed Kwara State.

I thank you all for your kind attention.