



UNIVERSITY OF UYO

# Addresses

AT THE



29<sup>TH</sup> &  
30<sup>TH</sup>

COMBINED  
CONVOCATION  
CEREMONY



At The 1000 Seater Capacity, TETFund Auditorium  
Main Campus, Nwaniba Road, Uyo



7<sup>TH</sup>-9<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER,  
2024



10:00AM



**29<sup>TH</sup>  
30<sup>TH</sup>** **&** **COMBINED  
CONVOCATION  
CEREMONY**



**UNIVERSITY OF UYO  
UYO, NIGERIA**

# Addresses

OF THE

**29<sup>th</sup>** & **COMBINED  
CONVOCATION  
CEREMONY**  
**30<sup>th</sup>**

FOR THE

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DEGREES,  
HIGHER DEGREES, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS,  
FIRST DEGREES, AWARD OF DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, PRIZES  
& INVESTITURE OF EMERITUS AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

AT THE

1000 - SEATER TETFUND AUDITORIUM  
MAIN CAMPUS, NWANIBA ROAD, UYO

ON

**DATE: 7TH-9TH NOVEMBER, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM**



*His Excellency*  
**BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR,**  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**VISITOR**



**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AND VISITOR TO THE UNIVERSITY OF UYO, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR, AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup> COMBINED CONVOCATION HELD ON SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**

**Protocol**

1. It is with immense pleasure that I stand before you today at this auspicious occasion of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Combined Convocation ceremony of the University of Uyo for the Award of Honorary Degrees, Conferment of First and Higher Degrees, Award of Diplomas and Prizes. I congratulate the Pro-Chancellor and members of the Governing Council on their appointment to superintend and manage the affairs of the University. I also congratulate the Vice Chancellor, Principal Officers, members of Senate, Staff, Students, Graduating Students of the University, Parents, Guardians, Well-Wishers and dignitaries on this historic ceremony. I rejoice with the entire members of the University community.
2. Permit me to specially extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduands for successfully attaining this remarkable milestone in their educational journey. Your dedication and hard work, commitment and perseverance has brought you to this point, and you truly deserve the accolades you are receiving.
3. As you step into the next phase of your lives, I urge you to remember the self-evident truth that you are the future leaders of this country. Government has spent a lot on your education, equipping you with the skills to make meaningful contributions to your lives and our society. As you go into the world, I urge you to be agents of positive change, using your knowledge and tools in uplifting our society, and contributing to the growth and development of Nigeria and the world at large. I appeal to your sense of patriotism, imploring you to avoid the temptation of hurrying to look for greener pastures outside. We can make our pastures equally as green or even greener than those of other climes.
4. As you are aware, the foundation of any progressive society is education. It is the driving force for all technological advancements, which drives modern civilization and national development. It is through the cultivation of knowledge that we can shape the future of our beloved country. Hence, education is of utmost importance and priority, and this administration will continue to support and strengthen education in our great country.
5. As a government, as part of our Renewed Hope Agenda for the education sector, the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFund) was established to provide financial support to students in tertiary institutions. To date, over 70 billion Naira has already been processed for payment to students and their respective



institutions through this innovative programme. While NELFund may still be facing teething problems peculiar to new agencies of its kind, the progress made so far is impressive. I appeal to beneficiaries of these loans to be honest and committed in their loan repayments to make NELFund sustainable. Let me assure you that this administration will continue to do everything possible to assist NELFund to achieve its mandate of making tertiary education more accessible to all Nigerians.

6. I am very much aware of the challenges we are currently facing as a nation. Let me assure you that government is committed to addressing these challenges head-on and implementing measures that will mitigate their impact on our people, particularly the most vulnerable among us. I therefore solicit for the support and understanding of Nigerians towards government's economic reform programmes in spite of the difficulties involved. These economic reforms, though difficult and understandably controversial, were taken in good faith, with the overarching goal of steering our economy towards stability and growth.
7. We are very much hopeful that these reforms will yield the desired results in no distant future and we shall all smile as we enjoy our new found prosperity. The road to prosperity is often paved with sacrifices, but together, we will emerge stronger as a nation. I am confident that with resilience, unity, and a shared vision for a better Nigeria, we will overcome these temporary difficulties and achieve sustainable development.
8. At this juncture, permit me to reiterate the need for our universities and other tertiary institutions of learning to continuously adjust to the ever-changing demands of our modern-day world by repositioning themselves and encouraging impactful teaching, learning and research that will bring about national progress and sustainable development. Education is the cornerstone of national development and must be responsive and transformative, for notable development to take place in our nation.
9. I therefore urge our Universities to be committed and live up to expectations as the vanguards of research, teaching, and community service, in line with their tripartite mandate. As citadels of learning, our universities should take the lead in championing demand-driven research that would serve the society in making human lives better and enriched. Academia should undertake cutting-edge researches that will address the challenges of development.
10. The government has supported the establishment of numerous centers of excellence across our tertiary institutions. It is, however, regrettable that the outcomes of numerous research and studies carried out, as well as findings from presentations made by our scholars at national and international conferences and workshops usually end up on the shelves of their respective authors, supervisors, departmental or faculty libraries and other university archives.



11. Permit me to reiterate this present administration's commitment to following due process, preserving the sanctity of the rule of law, fighting corruption, securing the lives and properties of our people, and rehabilitating and upgrading our critical infrastructure, in line with our Renewed Hope Agenda. We are determined to enthrone hard work and honesty as a way of life in our nation in addition to placing the welfare of our citizens above everything else. Our universities and every well-meaning Nigerian must join hands to make this possible.
12. I congratulate the University Senate, Management Team, Governing Council and Chancellor for the successful hosting of this event. I have confidence that the University of Uyo Governing Council, which was recently constituted with men and women of experience will do great things and deliver on its mandate.
13. Once again, congratulations to all the graduands. I wish you success in all your future endeavours. May you continue to shine as beacons of hope and progress for Nigeria.

Thank you, and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.





*His Royal Highness*  
**ALHAJI (DR.) ABUBAKAR ADAMU MAJE CON, D.PSD**  
The Emir of Hadejia and Chairman  
Jigawa State Council of Chiefs

**CHANCELLOR**





**AN ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UYO,  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALHAJI (DR) ABUBAKAR ADAMU MAJE,  
CON, THE EMIR OF HADEJIA, JIGAWA STATE AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup>  
COMBINED CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UYO, HELD ON  
SATURDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024**

The Distinguished Visitor to the University of Uyo,  
Your Excellencies,  
The Honourable Minister of Education,  
The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the University of Uyo  
The Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo,  
Members of the Governing Council,  
Members of the Senate of the University of Uyo,  
Alumni of the University of Uyo,  
My Very Dear Graduands,  
Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm,  
My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to be in Uyo, the capital city of Akwa Ibom State, for another convocation ceremony of the University of Uyo. The 2023 convocation was a triple edition, which has been reduced to double edition in 2024 as an indication of the resolve of the University of Uyo to clear the backlog of unconvoked graduands. This is already a significant feat by the Management of the University of Uyo. Obviously, there is the resolve in the University to build and showcase human capacity efforts of an ideal tertiary institution.

The training, graduation and sponsorship of university graduates is no mean feat in view of the prevailing economic realities in the country. Apart from an individual's determination to succeed, and the necessary convivial environment for studies, sponsorship remains a significant factor of academic excellence. This explains the reason for joy by the graduands, parents and sponsors for bracing the odds to achieve the greatness celebrated today.

Let me at this juncture commend the Visitor to the University of Uyo and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for the recent constitution of Governing Councils of Federal Universities. I am pleased that the University of Uyo was not left out of the composition of eminent Nigerians to run



Nigerian Universities. It is for this reason that I welcome Professor Zubairu Tajo Abdullah, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council to the University of Uyo, and wish him and his internal and external council members success in their efforts at contributing to the smooth running of the University of Uyo. I have no reservations about their abilities to transform the fortunes of the University of Uyo. We must all join hands to support the efforts of the Visitor and President, Federal Republic of Nigeria to chart a new course for our country, despite the teething challenges which are commonplace in a developing economy. The big names of the global economies of today must have passed through the stage we are currently in, but surmounted their challenges with resilience and uncommon patriotism for their nation. In fact, we may exit the current uncertainties of our national economy earlier than expected as we sincerely commit ourselves to contributing our quota from our various corners to nation building.

As every convocation presents the University for intellectual, learning and community development appraisal, I commend the Vice Chancellor, Professor Nyaudoh Ndaeyo for his ability to steer the ship of this University to the successes recorded at several fronts. May this tempo be sustained, new grounds broken and greater heights attained to launch the University of Uyo to the zenith of academic excellence.

To the graduating students, I congratulate you once again on creating the fulfilment for yourselves and parents who waited with hope to see a glorious day of this nature. Let me admonish you all to relish in the rules and regulations which enabled you to reach the apogee of excellence in character and in learning. The twin attributes of excellence in character and learning do not stop on graduation day, but a lifelong canon which must define your conducts in the world of work and other endeavours of life. It is much more critical to maintain excellence in character and learning to be qualified for the limited opportunities of the labour market. Also, these twin concepts of character and learning are requisites for greater chances at job creation, confidence building and human development.

Finally, as the Chancellor of the University of Uyo, I heartily welcome everyone to the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> combined convocation of the University of Uyo and sincerely pray for journey mercies as we recess to our various destinations at the end of the convocation ceremonies.





**PROF. ZUBAIRU T. ABDALLAH**

B.Sc (Econs) Abu, Zaria M. Econs Dev. (Vanderbitt University, USA)

M.Sc (Econs) (Vanderbitt University, USA)

Ph.D (Econs) Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto

PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING COUNCIL



**AN ADDRESS BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF UYO, PROF. ZUBAIRU T. ABDALLAH, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup> COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UYO, HELD FROM 4<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2024.**

**Protocol**

Let me first of all bring to you greetings from my family and the entire members of the Governing Council of the University of Uyo. Secondly, I am immensely grateful to our esteemed Visitor and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for entrusting me with the leadership of the Governing Council of this great University. Witnessing this convocation ceremony as Chairman of the governing council is a distinct honor. The current convocation which combines the 29th and 30th batches of graduands will leave an indelible mark in my memory, being the first convocation since our inauguration as a council. It is with a great sense of pride therefore that I warmly welcome everyone to this special occasion.

Let me specially welcome our most revered Visitor, His Excellency, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the University of Uyo. I equally salute the other guests whose presence has added credence to this occasion.

We join all parents, guardians and esteemed guests to share with you, our dear ambassadors, in your joy as you celebrate your well-deserved graduation from our great citadel of learning. Your hardwork, dedication and commitment have paid off handsomely.

Our university's mission remains focused on producing skilled professionals equipped to excel in various industries and academia. We take pride in notable alumni such as Professor Nyaudoh Ndaeyo, the first alumnus to serve as Vice-Chancellor, and the current Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor Umo Eno, who continues his academic journey with us.

In terms of infrastructural development, I am proud to say that we have made some modest strides to improve our campus, most recently relocating the Faculty of Law to an impressive new building. However, we could have done better if adequate funds were available to the University. In this respect, we implore the Visitor to, in his magnanimity, ensure that more funds are made available to the University of Uyo in order to support the development of essential facilities that will serve our growing students' and faculty members. Likewise, most



of our Science Laboratories require much needed upgrade. This will enhance the institution's global competitiveness.

We want to specifically appreciate the role of TETFund in the development of Nigeria's Tertiary institutions. your commitment to staff training and development, Research, and infrastructural development have propelled Nigerian Universities closer to global standards. However, we appeal for special intervention from TETFund to complete abandoned projects in the university.

We commend His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for introducing the Student Loan Scheme Policy. This policy will surely give hope to our talented, less-privileged students and enable them achieve their aspirations and dreams.

Your excellency, we are also concerned about the problem of land encroachment and land grabbing on our campus by neighboring communities. This has negatively affected the university's long term infrastructural development plans. Consequently, we wish to appeal for the construction of a perimeter fence around the university to ensure security and safeguard university's properties.

The present council of the University of Uyo is focusing attention on staff development and welfare, particularly promotions to qualified and deserving staff. Likewise, staff training and development remain a cornerstone of our mission. In this respect, in additions to our existing postgraduate programmes, some interested academics are currently engaged in postdoctoral programmes abroad, including a TetFund-supported initiative in Brazil.

However, as a member of the academic community myself, I am acutely aware of the pressing challenges in higher education in Nigeria, such as the shortage of faculty, outdated equipment, and the issue of brain drain. With adequate resources, political commitment, and policy support, our universities can play a transformational role in national development. Universities like ours contribute not only by advancing research that addresses local challenges and informs policy but also by preparing graduates to make meaningful contributions to society.

Let me also commend His Excellency for his great foresight in approving the operational guidelines for universities' transition from the IPPIS to a more appropriate alternative best suited for the needs and operations of Nigeria's university system, in line with global best



practice. This action will allow for greater operational flexibility.

The University of Uyo has established itself as a reputable institution, actively involved in impactful research collaborations, such as our current partnership with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Austria to study Mycotoxin effects in high-risk Nigerian regions. Thanks to Dr. N. Akpan and Dr. I. Udo for enhancing our university's reputation through this work.

In closing, on behalf of the Governing Council, I extend deep gratitude to parents and all stakeholders for their invaluable contributions to the University. To our graduates and honorary awardees, we ask that you remain proud ambassadors of our institution and seize any opportunity to give back.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, thank you for honouring us with your esteemed presence. May the good Lord grant you safe journey back to your destinations.





**PROFESSOR NYAUDOH U. NDAEYO**

B.Sc (Uyo) M.Sc., Ph.D. (Ibadan)  
MCSSN, FIIA, MASN, MSSN, MNRSA

**VICE-CHANCELLOR**



**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF UYO,  
PROFESSOR NYAUDOH U. NDAEYO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
29TH AND 30TH COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 7TH – 9TH, 2024**

**PROTOCOLS**

Your Excellency, the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and Visitor to the University of Uyo, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR

The Chancellor of the University of Uyo and Emir of Hadejia, Your Royal Highness, Alhaji Abubakar Maje, CON

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, University of Uyo, Professor Zubairu Tajo Abdallah

Members of the 10th Governing Council of the University of Uyo

The Chancellors of other universities here present

Your Excellency, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor (Dr.) Umo Bassey Eno

Your Excellencies, the Governors of other states here present

The Honorable Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa

The Inspector-General of Police, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Senator (Dr.) Akon Eyakenyi

Members of the National Assembly here present

The Speaker and Members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly

Your Lordship, the Chief Judge of Akwa Ibom State and other Judges here present

Your Excellencies, Former Governors of Akwa Ibom State and Former Governors of other states here present

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Zone 6 Command

The Commissioner of Police Akwa Ibom State

The Director, Department of Security Services, Akwa Ibom State Command

The Commandant, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Akwa Ibom State

The Commander, 2 Brigade Nigeria Army and Commander Operation Delta Safe Sector IV

The Commander, 6th Motorized Brigade, Ibagwa, Akwa Ibom State

Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present

The Acting Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission

Pro-Chancellors and Members of the Governing Councils of other universities here





present

Former Pro-Chancellors and Former Governing Council Members here present

Vice-Chancellors and Former Vice Chancellors of other universities here present

Secretary-General, Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities

Distinguished Convocation Lecturer

Deputy Vice-Chancellors and other Principal Officers, University of Uyo

Members of Senate and Members of Congregation, University of Uyo

Distinguished Honorary Graduands here present

Royal Fathers here present

My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal

Representatives of Corporate Organisations here present

My dear Graduands, Parents and Guardians here present

Members of Our Dear Host Communities here present

Great Tuskers

Members of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

WELCOME

On behalf of members of the Senate, other members of staff and the students of our great university, the University of Uyo, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you all very specially and most warmly to this combined convocation ceremony of our University. We thank the good Lord Almighty for faithfully granting all of you hitch-free journeys to Uyo, the serene and alluring capital of Akwa Ibom State – a state which, through the vicissitudes of change and continuity, has developed progressively into a model spectacle in the comity of states within the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Convocation is a continual academic tradition among universities during which degrees and certificates are awarded to graduating students and those that have met certain conditions of the Senate of each university to be conferred with honorary degrees. The ceremony typically brings together a robust constellation of radiant graduands who have met the requirements of the university in character and learning, as well as their parents, guardians, other family members, friends and well-wishers to share in the joy of the success of the graduating students. It is, therefore, also a moment of Thanksgiving to God for the providential gift of life, good health and sound mind throughout the academic journey of these graduands against several odds and social challenges. It is within the ambit of this gratitude to God that I also most



heartily welcome to the University the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa, the Executive Acting Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), whose schedules of duty routinely bring them close to the routine activities and affairs of the University. I welcome and thank them profoundly.

It is with much delight that I welcome the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, who is a part of this convocation in double capacity: He is here, first as the Executive Governor of the State and second as a doctoral graduand of the University. Ladies and gentlemen, let me proclaim with a sense of pride that His Excellency, the Governor, as an alumnus of this great institution, took over the clay of the state and added to its beauty a mosaic of colourfulness that has enhanced the elegant outlook of state structure which he inherited from his predecessors. Your Excellency, we are proud to have you as one of our alumni. I must likewise appreciate the esteemed presence of members of the State Executive Council; the Speaker and members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly; the Chief Judge and members of the Akwa Ibom State Judiciary, all of whom have devoted conscience, time and resources towards the building of a world class state through rapid and uncommon transformation. The University of Uyo, through their efforts and support, has been blessed with a congenial host environment for the actualization of its vision and mission. Distinguished members of the National Assembly, past governors and their spouses, and members of the public, including the members of the press, are deserving of gratitude for availing us of their presence and time.

A royal welcome and appreciation to our Chancellor, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Dr. Abubakar Adamu Maje, CON, the Emir of Hadejia and Chairman of Jigawa Traditional Rulers Council, and all members of his entourage to this Land of Promise. This extends to fellow Vice-Chancellors and Principal Officers of other universities alongside heads of our collaborating institutions of learning and corporate bodies from within and outside Nigeria. In the indigenous lingo, I say “Emedi o”.

**MY STEWARDSHIP THUS FAR AS VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Since I assumed duty as the 8th substantive Vice-Chancellor in 2020, it was last year I had the providential opportunity to organise the 26th, 27th and 28th combined convocation ceremonies in November of that year owing to a constellation of



constraints such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the strikes by staff unions in Nigeria's public universities. This 29th and 30th omnibus convocation ceremony is thus my second convocation since I came into office in December, 2020. The destabilizing events and state of affairs both in Nigeria and around the world, which have happened coevally with my tenure of office, are not strange to anyone of us. First, there were the disruptive pandemic and the strikes, which I had just mentioned; and then since last year, the nation's economy has been undergoing changes whose impact on the provision of social services, including education, has not been superlatively friendly. On account of these developments, while the University of Uyo under my watch has continued to enjoy stability and peace on the campus, the fallout from the overarching economic environment has not encouraged our reaching our expectations in all aspects of the development of the University. Despite these challenges, which are, of course, not unique to our institution, I am pleased to state that the University of Uyo has made quite some impressive progress in nearly all aspects of the life of the institution, highlights of which I present as follows:

**INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Infrastructure makes for congenial learning environment in universities, facilitating better instruction which improves the overall outcome and well-being of the staff and the students. The University of Uyo under my watch acknowledges the relationship between standard infrastructure and the quality of students and thus intentionally facilitated a plethora of construction works, a highlight of which follows:



**LIST OF PROJECTS EXECUTED**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>% OF WORK DONE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
<b>PROJECTS INHERITED</b>			
1	Construction of Classroom Block, Phase I, (Builder's Work with M/E Services) Main Campus	60%	Contract Determined
2	Construction of Central ICT Building at Main Campus	40%	Contract Determined
3	Construction and Furnishing of Lecture Theatre for Faculty of Law with Associated External Works	75%	Ongoing
4	Construction and Furnishing of Lecture Theatre for Faculty of Law with Associated External Works - Block 2	75%	Ongoing
5	Construction and Furnishing of Agricultural Building for Faculty of Agriculture with Associated External Works	90%	Ongoing
6	Construction And Furnishing of Faculty of Environmental Studies Building With Associated External Works	82%	Ongoing
7	Construction of Law Building at the Main Campus	90%	Ongoing
8	Construction and Finishing of Computer Laboratory	98%	Practical



9	Construction and Furnishing of Art Theatre Dance Studio with External Works	95%	Practical completion
10	Construction and Furnishing of Five Arm Lecture Pavilion at the Main Campus	90%	Practical completion
11	Construction of 3 Storey Building (4floors) Department of Biochemistry (Phase I)	100%	Completed and in use
12	Construction of 3 Storey Building (4floors) Department of Biochemistry (Phase II)	90%	Practical completion
13	Construction of 1No 500 Bedspace NDDC Students Hostel at the Main Campus	100%	Completed and in use
14	Construction of Faculty of Agriculture Complex with Mechanical and laboratory Furniture	95%	Practical completion
15	Construction, Furnishing and Fittings of 1No Students' Hostel Block (Phase 1) at Main Campus	95%	Practical completion
16	Construction, Furnishing and Equipping of 600 seats Capacity Lecture Theatre for the Faculty of Science	100%	Completed and in use
17	Construction and furnishing of Engineering Classroom at the Main Campus	100%	Completed and in use
18	Construction and furnishing of 300-Capacity Lecture Theater at the College of Health Sciences	98%	Practical completion
19	Completion of Construction of Staff Offices Block at the Main Campus	100%	Completed and in use



<b>PROJECTS INITIATED BY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION</b>			
1	Construction and Furnishing of Academic Staff Offices for Faculty of Environmental Studies	70%	Ongoing
2	Maintenance of TetFund Assets (Buildings) Projects (Faculty of Engineering Staff Offices Block	75%	Completed
3	Control/Mitigation of Flood and Erosion Control at The Main Campus(Phase1)	95%	Practical completion
4	Construction of Faculty of Arts Staff Office1	82%	Ongoing
5	Construction of Faculty of Arts Staff Office2	100%	Completed and in use
6	Construction of Classroom Block for Faculty of Arts	100%	Completed and in use
7	Construction of Faculty Building for Faculty of Business Management	30%	Ongoing
8	Construction of Classroom/Office Block for Faculty of Arts	42%	Ongoing
9	Construction of 3 Arm Lecture Theatre for Faculty of Environmental Studies	100%	Completed and in use
10	Construction of 1800M Perimeter Fence with Piers at 3.6m Interval and One Suspended Floor Observatory at the Main Campus.	Yet to commence	Contractor is mobilizing to Site



**MAJOR INNOVATIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY WITHIN THE LAST ONE YEAR**

In addition to the profile of physical infrastructural projects highlighted, the University of Uyo, to the glory of God, has witnessed major new innovations in many ways, as presented below.

**University of Uyo Printing Press**

Given the fervency of academic activities in this University, particularly as they border on publications, the Management of the University under my watch resolved to establish here on the campus a vibrant printing press which would handle in-house the University's printing and publishing needs while at the same time accommodate the printing and publication of works of individuals within and outside the campus as a way of raising the internally-generated revenue profile of the of the University. The University of Uyo Printing Press was officially opened for business in July, this year, and it has since been making very rapid progress in all aspects of printing and publishing, including digitalization of materials. Let me use this opportunity to inform the public of the availability of this brand new, state-of-the-art press, and to solicit for patronage of the facility from among members of the public.

**Bookshop**

The University in partnership with Dara bookshop has established a standard Bookshop on campus. With this, our students, staff and the entire University Community now has a one-stop bookshop that meets their needs.

**Staff Matters**

I must confess, ladies and gentlemen, that the economic downturn in our country has made it difficult for the managers of our public educational institutions to provide optimum motivation for their staff. The University of Uyo has not been an exception to this situation. However, the Management of the University, under my leadership, assessed the entire situation and resolved to provide maximum motivation for the staff of our university in whichever ways possible and within the orbit of our control while being hopeful that the general situation in the country will improve over time. Such motivations have been in the areas of promotion of staff and introduction of certain forms of statutory recognitions that had appeared to be the preserve of only the older



universities. The details of these measures are:

### **Promotions**

Promotions in the university system follow three different procedures. The members of the non-teaching staff are promoted periodically once they have completed the statutory gestation period in one position and they have been assessed and found to have met all other requirements. Promotion of academic staff up to the Senior Lecturer position is based on completion of the mandatory gestation period in one rank in addition to the staff having a certain number of scholarly publications. In addition to fulfilling these conditions, promotions at the professorial level further go through a peer review route and entails spending of money in the assessment process. Promotion at this level is, therefore, the most conspicuous and celebrated, and it is often used to gauge the commitment of Management to the promotion of its staff, particularly the teaching staff. It is my pleasure, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to announce the following statistics of professorial promotion since I assumed office as the Vice Chancellor:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>ACADEMIC RANK</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
1.	Professors	128
2.	Associate Professors	183
	<b>TOTAL</b>	311

### **Emeritus and Distinguished Professors**

The University of Uyo has been especially blessed with a rich constellation of academic staff who have made their marks in diverse fields nationally and internationally. Very many of these have made outstanding individual contributions to the growth of the University and the nation, and are still poised to do more for the institution especially if given the platform within the university to continue to do so. In consideration of this, and also to set a target for the younger academics to aspire towards, the Management of the University took the bold step of according some of these outstanding members of staff two different categories of recognition, namely, Emeritus Professorship and Distinguished Professorship. Sequel to this, the Senate of the University of Uyo has approved of the conferment of the status of Emeritus





Professor and of Distinguished Professor on the first batch of its deserving members of staff.

Accordingly, Professor Akpan H. Ekpo, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Uyo and a globally acclaimed economist, was awarded Emeritus Professor. Prof Akpan Hogan Ekpo has thus become the first Emeritus Professor of the University of Uyo.

In a similar vein, the award of Distinguished Professor was conferred on Professor Enefiok E. Essien, a legal luminary, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and the Immediate Past Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo; Professor Godfrey O. Udo, an expert in Estate Management and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and Professor EnoAbasi E. Urua, a widely acclaimed linguist, the current Director, School of Basic Studies and former Dean of Arts, University of Uyo. It is my pleasure to announce that these pioneer honorees would be decorated for the first time in the history of this University during this convocation ceremony, thus ushering the University of Uyo into the league of universities who have Emeritus Professors and Distinguished Professors.

## **LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY'S ROUTINE ACTIVITIES**

### **National Universities Commission Approved and Accredited Programmes**

The University of Uyo has received the results of two batches of the NUC Accreditation visits. These are for the October/November 2021 and October/November 2023.

In the October/November 2021 exercise, the University had Full Accreditation in the following programmes:

1. Faculty of Arts (History and International Studies),
2. Faculty of Education (Health Education, Pre-Primary and Primary Education, Technical Education and Education Technology),
3. Faculty of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering),



4. Faculty of Agriculture (Food Science and Technology),
5. Faculty of Environmental Science (Building, Estate, Urban and Regional Planning),
6. Faculty of Clinical Sciences (Medicine and Surgery),
7. Faculty of Pharmacy,
8. Faculty of Biological Sciences (Biochemistry).
9. In the Faculty of Management Sciences, the Department of Accounting had interim accreditation while the Department of Civil Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering also had interim status. This indicates 85.7% full accreditation and 14.3% interim.

Results of the October/November 2023 NUC Accreditation exercise were as follows:

1. The Departments of Accounting, Business Management and Insurance in the Faculty of Management Sciences have Full Accreditation status.
2. The Efik/Ibibio Programme and the Department of Theatre and Film Studies in the Faculty of Arts also had full accreditation status.
3. Full accreditation status was also earned by the Departments of Computer Science Education, Efik/Ibibio Education, Fine Arts Education, Home Economics Education (all in the Faculty of Education);
4. Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical/Electronics Engineering (all in the Faculty of Engineering) earned Full Accreditation;
5. Quantity Surveying (Faculty of Environmental Science) had Full Accreditation;
6. Department of Botany and Ecological Studies (Faculty of Biological Sciences) earned Full Accreditation;
7. Department of Psychology and Department of Political Science and Public Administration (Faculty of Social Sciences); and
8. The Faculty of Law both had Full Accreditation.

In November/December 2023 Accreditation, twenty-two (22) programmes were presented and all had full accreditation. In all, our great university secured 83.33% full accreditation status and 16.67% interim accreditation status.

It is proper to add that some of the programmes with interim status are from the newly established and unbundled programmes which are undergoing resource verifications and accreditations. In all, over 90% of our academic programmes have full



accreditation while the remaining 10% have interim. We are working hard to represent the interim programmes so that we can have 100% full accreditation.

### **Inaugural and Public Lectures**

An Inaugural Lecture is a public academic ceremony to celebrate the appointment of a lecturer to the terminal rank of professor. The Lecture is an occasion and opportunity for a newly promoted professor to share his/her achievements in research engagement, community service and teaching activities before an audience of members of the university community and the general public. May I state that not all lecturers rise to the enviable glass ceiling of full professorship and not all full professors are, by dint of circumstances, are opportuned to present an Inaugural Lecture. Since I assumed office as Vice-Chancellor, there have been Inaugural Lectures on a monthly basis and as at last month we had our 106<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture.

Let me, at this juncture, thank very specially the group of teaching and non-teaching colleagues who came together under the umbrella of “Friends of Prof. Nyaudoh Ndaeyo” to establish a lecture series under that name. I especially appreciate the efforts of the Pioneer Dean of Management Sciences and former Chairman, Committee of Deans, Prof Isaac Ayandele and his core of friends who initiated that series of lectures. Thus far, three thrilling lectures have already been given, and it is my hope that the series of lectures will contribute to ignite intellectual effervescence in the University through research and scholarly calisthenics. Many other Faculties/Departments have also packaged and put forward Public Lectures that have generated public discourse. I appreciate them and I call for sustenance of same.

### **PRIZES, DONATIONS, HONOURS, RECOGNITIONS AND CONFERMENTS**

1. On November 6, 2022, Dr. Aniekan Imo Peter of the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences donated three industrial fume extractors with 100,000 installation capacity each and carried out the plumbing of the laboratory.
2. On January 20, 2023, the 1990 set of students of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies presented a Life-Streaming Broadcasting Equipment to the University.
3. The former Speaker of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly and current Senator representing Uyo Senatorial District, Rt. Hon. Senator Aniekan Bassey, an



esteemed alumnus of this great university, donated a dedicated internet service to the Faculty of Law on May 18, 2023.

4. Professor Philip Afaha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), University of Abuja, instituted an endowment fund of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) for the best graduating student in the Department of History and International Studies;

5. Architect Dr. Usen Udo, Head of Department, Architecture, instituted an award of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) for the best graduating student in Architectural Design in each session for ten (10) years.

6. The Ahmadu Bello University Alumni Association, Akwa Ibom State Branch, in honour of His Excellency, Obong Victor Attah on his 88th birthday, instituted a prize of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) for the best graduating student in the Department of Architecture for the 2023/2024 session.

7. The Vice-Chancellor on November 9, 2023 was awarded Honorary Fellow status by the Society of Nigerian Artists.

8. The National Universities Commission (NUC) forwarded one (1) carton of the Law Reports of the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS, Abuja, Nigeria (2010 - 2015 & 2017) for use in the University Library.

9. The Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs donated an MF 75hp Tractor, plough, and trailer, all worth N35,000,000.00 (Thirty Five Million Naira only) to the Faculty of Engineering.

10. The Department of Economics benefited from the benevolence of one of its alumnus, Sir Okon Okon, the Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Board of Internal Revenue, who donated ten (10) new laptops, one projector, one air conditioner, inverter, wireless adaptor and replaced armoured cable to revamp the Economic Science Laboratory.

11. The Christian Family Mission of Nigeria, Nkwot Nko, Ikono Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, facilitated by the Dean, Faculty of Allied Health, Professor Anietie Moses, donated an X-Ray Machine, Theatre Lamp, Wheel Chair, Oxygen Concentrator with 4 Cylinders and 2 sets of crutches to the Faculty of Allied Health Science on September 17, 2024.

12. On Monday, September 23, 2024, the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, received two state-of-the-art laptops from an alumna of the Department, Mrs. Idorenyin Patrick Mbeke-Ekanem, as a way of giving back to the Department and the University.



13. The Agricultural Class of 1995, University of Uyo during a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor presented an Award to him for his meritorious service and also donated computer sets and accessories to the Faculty of Agriculture on June 14, 2024 at the Council Chamber.

14. On Monday, October 21, the Royal Family of Late Obong Ndaeyo Nyauo Instituted a prize of N50,000 for best graduand in the Faculty of Agriculture in honour of one of their Patriarchs, and an illustrious son, Late Obong Inuaeyen Ndaeyo, the first Chief Agricultural Officer in the then South Eastern State and Pioneer General Manager, Cross River Basin Development Authority.

15. Prof. Trenchard O. Ibia, a retired Professor of Soil Science has instituted an award of N50,000 for best graduating student in the Department of Soil Science for a period of ten (10) years at first instance.

### **OTHER EVENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY**

1. On March 16, 2023, the University Management received Mrs. Soni Kukil, the representative of the Canadian Embassy. The visit provided the forum for the Canadian Embassy and the University of Uyo to explore possible areas of collaboration.

2. On March 24, 2023, Medical Graduands of the College of Health Sciences had their 20th Physician's Oath-Taking Ceremony.

3. The Faculty of Pharmacy had their 22nd and 23rd Oath-Taking/Induction Ceremony of the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 graduates on May 16, 2023, and December 7, 2023, respectively.

4. The Vice-Chancellor and the University of Uyo WASH Team travelled to Beijing, China, to participate in the XVIII International World Water Congress between 11 and 15 September, 2023.

5. The Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) in conjunction with the Faculty of Education, held its 10th Induction Ceremony on October 19, 2023. The subsequent 11th and 12th Induction Ceremony took place on July 4, 2024 in the University of Uyo.

6. The University of Uyo held its 26th, 27th and 28th combined convocation ceremonies between 8 and 11 November, 2023.

7. History graduates had their first Induction Ceremony into the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) on Monday 14 October, 2024, where 216 graduating students and 64



postgraduate students were inducted. At the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor was honoured with a Distinguished Award of Honour for his Interest in the discipline of History.

8. Professor Akindele Folarin Alonge, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, was conferred as a Fellow of the International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (FIAABE) during the World Congress in Kyoto, Japan, in December 2022. He was also conferred as Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Safety Engineers on October 26, 2023.

9. Professor Amos Fola Awodeyi of the Department of Science Education was invested as a Life Member of the Mathematical Association of Nigeria (LMAN).

10. Professor EnoAbasi Urua was re-elected for another four (4) years term (2024 – 2028) to represent Nigeria and Africa in the Executive Committee of the Comite Internationale Permanent des Linguistes (CIPL) at the 21st International Congress of Linguists held in Poznan in Poland from September 8 to 14, 2024.

11. Professor Isaac E. Udoh and Professor Grace Ekong, both of the Department of Music were inducted as Fellows of the Association of Nigerian Musicologist (FANIM) at the 20th Annual Conference of the Association held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State between the 19th and 23rd of August, 2024.

12. The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria donated an endowment Professorial Chair in Taxation Law and Practice on Part-Time basis at the Faculty of Law, University of Uyo, effective

13. On June 11, 2024, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife, Faculty of Agriculture organised the 2024 World Environment Day Celebration.

14. The Pan African Dialogue Institute (TPADI) on May 24, 2024 organised an International Conference on Dialogue and Pan Africanism to mark the Celebration of the 2024 International Africa Day. The event had Her Excellency, Madam Fatoumata, a former Vice President of Republic of the Gambia, in attendance.

15. On June 26, 2024, a Valedictory Lecture was given by Professor Akpan H. Ekpo, the former Vice-Chancellor of the University, to mark his birthday and formal retirement from the service of the University of Uyo. This was accompanied by a book presentation titled *Nigeria: The Economics of Potentials and the Potentials of Economics*.

16. The Vice-Chancellor, on August 19, 2024, signed an MoU between the University of Uyo and Valid Films and Advertising Academy.

17. An MoU between the University of Uyo and Antic Global Ltd for the harvesting



and processing of palm fruits as well as the training of student in palm oil and soap production was signed.

18. On August 20, 2024, Professor Trenchard O. Ibia Professorial Chair in Soil Science was instituted.

19. The Vice-Chancellor was in the University of South Carolina between February 25 and March 3, 2024 upon invitation for the purpose of collaborating on research of mutual interest in the areas of Geographic Information System (GIS), climate change and diseases like COVID 19.

20. The Vice-Chancellor was also in Lancaster University, United Kingdom, for the purpose of attending an African Research and Innovation Partnership (ARIP) Workshop between the 20th and 22nd of March, 2024.

21. The Vice-Chancellor also attended the maiden meeting of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Management with Heads of Corps Producing Institutions on Monday 13, 2024 at Abuja.

22. The Professor Nyaudoh Ndaeyo's public lectures had its maiden edition on March 25, 2024 on the theme: "Planning for Retirement: The Entrepreneurship Option," and had Professor Emmanuel Ayandele, a Pioneer Dean, Faculty of Management Science as the Lecturer.

23. The University of Uyo emerged the best among the countries in the University Database Lead at Study Abroad Aide led by Roxanne Naguinlin in their November, 2023 Annual Best Value Rankings for International Students. The Ranking assessed 8,060 private and public higher educational institutions in 69 countries. The University of Uyo was recognised as one of the 100 Best Value Universities in Nigeria and placed among the Top 61% Best Value University World Rankings.

24. Two staff of the University of Uyo – Professor Enoidem B. Usoro, the immediate past Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) and Mr. Aniediabasi Udofia, the immediate past Registrar of the University of Uyo – were appointed as Rector and Registrar, respectively, to the Governing Council of Dakkada Skills Acquisition, Ikot Ada Idem, by His Excellency, the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor (Dr.) Umo Bassey Eno.



## CONVOCATION STATISTICS

By the special grace of God, the University of Uyo is graduating a grand total of Twelve Thousand, Four hundred and Fifty (12,450) students for this combined (29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>) convocation ceremony. A breakdown of the figure indicates that:

1. Postgraduate level

(a)	Doctoral Degrees	-	313
(b)	Master's Degrees	-	608
(c)	Postgraduate Diploma	-	<u>246</u>
	<b>Total</b>	=	<b><u>1,1697</u></b>

Undergraduate level (2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Sessions)

(a)	Bachelor's (4,823 + 6012)	-	10,835
(b)	Diploma (176 + 235)	-	411
(c)	Certificates (5 + 32)	-	<u>37</u>
	<b>Total</b>	=	<b><u>11,283</u></b>

A further breakdown of the total number of undergraduate results for the two sessions revealed the following categories:

(i)	First Class (56 + 118)	-	174
(ii)	Second Class (Upper Division) (1,737 + 2,306)	-	4,043
(iii)	Second Class (Lower Division) (2,336 + 2,895)	-	5,231
(iv)	Third Class (412 + 481)	-	893
(v)	Pass (282 + 212)	-	<u>494</u>
	<b>Total</b>	=	<b><u>10,835</u></b>

May I use this opportunity to specially felicitate all graduands, parents, guardians and indeed all of us for this great achievement. I urge and pray that you shall all remain divine tools of blessings and great ambassadors to your family, community, University of Uyo, Nigeria and the world at large. Continue to fly the flag of University well and always remember that UNIUYO is a brand, therefore preserve the brand wherever you find yourself. I declare that it is truly well with you all.

## AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES

The award of honorary degrees to persons whose contributions to humanity in various ways have impacted positively and resoundingly on society has been a time-tested global practice and tradition in academe. During this ceremony, as in previous ones, the Senate of the University of Uyo has approved the award of honorary doctoral





degrees to three highly distinguished personalities who have made immense contributions to the advancement and well-being of humanity from different flanks of human endeavours. Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to announce to us something very unique about this year's awards. In all the previous convocations in the life of this University, the honorary doctoral awards have always been made to two males and one female. This year the University has reversed this order in the spirit of gender equity and justice by conferring the awards on two females and one male. The three honorary doctoral awardees are as follows:

### **CHIEF EFFIONG DANIELAFIAKURUE**

He is the Chairman of Root-Care Pharmaceuticals. He was born into the family of Late Chief Daniel Afiakurue of Uboro-Oro, Urue Offong Oruko Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State, on 13th February, 1958. He enjoyed a very steady career and rose to the position of General Manager in the Oil and Gas sector. He served in this position for 15 years when this career took him through the Cross River State Teaching Service, Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) where he retired in February 2018.

He is a Fellow, Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria, Member, Computer Society of Nigeria and Member, Nigeria Institute of Management (Chartered). Some philanthropic works of Sir Afiakurue include: Building and equipping a computer centre with internet connectivity at Mary Hanney Secondary School, Oron, and sponsoring 20 students of Ritmam University since 2018 by paying their boarding fees of 600,000 Naira per term. He had also awarded over 100 full scholarships to students of Oro extraction studying in tertiary institutions of learning across the country; and he had empowered over 200 widows and less privileged indigenes of Oro nation. The Chief had also instituted an annual medical mission in Oro Nation where sick people who cannot afford medical bills are treated free of charge: in the last outing of the mission, four hundred and sixty five (465) patients were attended to and about sixty five (65) of them underwent surgeries for various ailments. The nominee has also established a worship centre in Urueoffong/Oruko LGA which also runs a primary school for over 120 pupils up to primary six/secondary school under his sponsorship



**MRS. HALIMA SADIYA SULEIMAN**

She is one of the most celebrated and sought-after icon in the secular world who has carved a niche for herself. She holds a Master's Degree in Project Management from the Federal University of Dutse. She hails from Jigawa State in Nigeria. She is Nigeria's former Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea.

Currently, Mrs. Suleiman is the Chairman, African Modular Refineries Limited; President and Chairman, Precision Financial Services Limited; Founder/Executive Director, Nigeria-Canadian College; Manager/Director/CEO AGROMIN-BOTANIC Resources Limited; and also Managing Director, ENISHOL NIGERIA LIMITED.

This rare personality was once awarded with Honorary Doctorate Degree by the Canadian International Education Institute. She is a Fellow, Chartered Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria. She is an ethnic-blind Nigerian who is versed in Hausa, Fulani, English and Arabic languages.

**DRITANWANITA JAMES**

Dr. Itanwan James was originally from Ikot Inyang Abia in Ukanafun Local Government Area, but now an indigene of Ibesikpo Asutan LGA by reason of marriage. She lives with her family in Eastvale, California, USA. Dr Itanwan James is a registered nurse, an educator, a public health practitioner, a health consultant, an entrepreneur and a positive change agent. Before leaving for the United States of America, she had trained at the School of Nursing, Ikot Ekpene, and at the School of Midwifery, Anua, Akwa Ibom State. It was from these two institutions that she acquired the status of a Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife. In the United States, she obtained the Bachelor of Science and the Master of Science, both in Nursing from the University of Phoenix, Arizona. Dr Itanwan James went to obtain the Doctorate degree in Public Health from the Walden University, USA.

She is a respected nurse, educator, and public health advocate dedicated to the empowerment of vulnerable populations. Her extensive contributions to healthcare, education, and social development have made a lasting impact in both Nigeria and the United States.

Through her various initiatives, Dr. Itanwan James has created a legacy of positive social change that spans healthcare, education, economic empowerment, and social welfare. Her work addresses both immediate needs and long-term systemic challenges, contributing to sustainable development and the betterment of society.



The ripple effects of her interventions will continue to inspire and uplift communities for generations to come.

**CHALLENGES**

To the glory of God, my Management Team and I have put in our very best amidst all the odds to take our dear University to a higher level in terms of infrastructure and welfare, but, despite these huge sacrifices, a few disquieting issues have continued to linger. The most prominent of these challenges are funding, staffing and encroachment on University land.

**Funding**

The University of Uyo is not insulated from the funding challenges facing most public institutions of learning in the country; but the situation here is a little special mainly because of the Federal Government's inability to avail the University of the Takeoff Grant in 1991 when the University became a federal institution. As a result, the University has been spreading thinly whatever resources it gets across the provision of major capital projects and the recurrent expenditure on routine running costs. This situation has been further aggravated by the positive development of increasing attractiveness of candidates to the institution for admission. In some of the courses for the current admission exercise, for instance, the cut-off mark is well over 300. Let me therefore use this occasion to repeat my appeal to government at all levels, organisations, individuals, corporate bodies, alumni and other associations to come to the aid of the University in whichever way they can to enable us to sustain our commitment to the provision of high quality tertiary education for our yearning young ones. It is necessary to place on record that the last Visitation Panel did not only sympathize with the University but also made special recommendation on this to the Federal Government.

**Staffing**

Staffing, at the various levels and categories, has been a disquieting challenge facing the University. Academic members of staff, for instance, have continued to dwindle in numbers either due to retirement, relocation to places outside the country under the “Japa” syndrome, switching to the private sector, death or going into politics. Especially affected are the lower cadres, a situation which has made most of the departments to become top-heavy and bottom- near empty in view of the shifting of



the responsibility to recruit staff to other authorities outside the university system. This situation has brought a lot of stress on the few existing members of staff, who are being overworked in view of the ever-increasing student intake. This is why I, on behalf of the University of Uyo Community, thank the Federal Government for the delinking of universities to IPPIS, under which regime recruitment of new members of staff experienced unprecedented bottlenecks. It is my prayer that true return to status quo ante be quickened so that the University of Uyo, like its other counterparts in the country, can have a new lease of life with regard to staffing.

Let me further appeal to the Federal Government to graciously complete the good job of releasing the balance of the withheld staff salaries on account of the 2022 strikes by staff unions. It is my belief that in the absence of every other incentive, this gesture would certainly boost the morale of staff remaining in the system.

**Encroachment on University Land**

The University of Uyo remains grateful to the Federal Government for the financial support, through the TETFund, towards commencement of the provision of a perimeter fence to check the encroachment on University Land by some members of the host communities. However, the ever-escalating inflation has drastically reduced the value of the support received, and this has left the University stranded mid-way in the execution of this project. I, therefore, repeat my appeal to the Federal Government to ramp up its financial support to the institution to enable us to solve this nagging problem once and for all time.

**APPRECIATION AND CONCLUSION**

The Chancellor and Chairman of this combined 29th and 30th convocation ceremony, ladies and gentlemen, to round off this address, permit me to once again thank the Almighty God for His grace and mercy which have prevailed throughout the course of this historic university event. I am equally most grateful to the Visitor to our great University, the Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Chancellor of the University of Uyo and Emir of Hadejia, His Royal Highness Alhaji Abubakar Maje, CON, for always being there for the University as a good father.

I appreciate, on behalf of the University Community, the interventions and general goodwill of the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, His Excellency, Pastor (Dr.) Umo



Bassey Eno, and members of his cabinet and other arms of the Government of Akwa Ibom State.

I am also thankful to the Pro-Chancellor for the zeal and warmth he has displayed towards the elevation of the University to greater heights since he assumed office just a few months ago. The same gratitude goes to the members of the Governing Council, the Convocation Lecturer, and the Distinguished Honorees. The past Vice-Chancellors are highly appreciated for their support. I appreciate the UNIUYO Alumni, our special donors, the Representative of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Principal Officers of the University, Members of Senate, Deans and Directors, Staff and Students, Parents and Guardians, Members of the Convocation Planning Committee, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen. I wish you all journey mercies back to your destinations, and may the good Lord bless you all for your patience and attention.

