



Campus News

Federal University of Technology, Minna

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OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN AGRICULTURE – PRESIDENT BUHARI TELLS FUTMINNA GRADUATES

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Visitor to the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Muhammadu Buhari *GCFR*, has urged graduates to take advantage of the inherent opportunities in the agricultural sector to better their lives and that of the society.

The President stated this while delivering his address yesterday during the 27th Convocation Ceremony and 35th Founder's Day of the University held at the Dr. Suleimanu Kumo Convocation Square, Main Campus.



Prof. Abdullahi delivering the President's address during the 27th Convocation Ceremony

The President who was represented by the former Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU), Zaria, Prof. Shehu Abdullahi said fresh graduates should look into the agricultural sector and the small and medium scale businesses, which are supporting the economy, adding that they should deploy their training from the University to harness the fortunes of the society in both sectors.

The Visitor further noted that his administration is committed to alleviating the challenge of unemployment in the country with the introduction of the N-Power Volunteer Scheme where 200,000 graduates have been engaged while another 300,000 graduates would also be engaged in the second phase of the scheme.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces charged the graduates to join the Federal Government's crusade in fighting corruption, so that the country's limited resources can be deployed to providing quality education, infrastructure, health care and other amenities for its teeming population. "We need the support of the youth and entire citizenry to succeed. To this end, I implore all students and most especially the graduates to rededicate themselves as ambassadors in this moral crusade," the President stated.

He urged the University to produce competent graduates and advised the graduating students to think more of the things that unite the country rather than the differences that exist among them.

"This administration is committed to making Nigeria better than we met it. Since we assumed office, we have been working assiduously to ensure a more secure and economically prosperous country. Even though, there is still much to be done, our efforts have been yielding fruits." the visitor of the University disclosed.

The President maintained that his administration recognised the importance of science and technology education in national development, saying that his administration is determined to address the plethora of challenges facing the education sector despite the constraining factor of limited resources.

In his goodwill message at the occasion, Niger State Governor Alh. (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello, represented by the Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Alhaji Ahmed Marafa Guni said "The thrust of my goodwill message as we mark the 27th Convocation is to remind us, especially those of us in leadership position to pay adequate attention to provision of functional education, which remains the most reliable foundation for sustainable development and societal transformation. As political leaders nothing apart from security of lives and properties, should occupy our attention more than education, if we must change the narratives of the nation."

The Governor further stated that the state has invested so much in the development of teachers and hopes to go into collaboration with FUT, Minna in order to add value to the technical schools in the State.

Speaking earlier, the Chancellor of the University, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberechi Nwannediya Dick (JP) appreciated the Federal Government for its massive investment in Nigerian education system, particularly its various financial and infrastructural interventions in FUT, Minna and called for more intervention strategy to improve the quality of education.

The Chancellor congratulated the newly appointed Governing Council of the University led by a renowned scholar, Prof. Femi Odekunle and commended the council for overseeing one of the most transparent and rancour free selection processes in the history of Nigerian university system, which culminated in the emergence of Prof. Abdullahi Bala as the new Vice-Chancellor of the institution.

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Addressing the graduands, the Royal father urged them to be good ambassadors of the University. Wherever they find yourselves in life. “I want you to step into the larger society with a high sense of confidence because you have been equipped by the University with all that it takes to succeed in life,” the Chancellor reiterated.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council,



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Dr. Abdullahi Baffa cutting the tape to flag off of the newly completed SAAT Complex Phase II yesterday

FUT, Minna, Prof. Femi Odekunle in his address identified indiscipline and corruption as the major cause of the socio-political and economic challenges that has translated into gross youth unemployment in our country.

He urged the graduands to always remember to conduct themselves as worthy ambassadors of the institution, which is the number one specialised university in Nigeria and resist all temptations that will manifest in indiscipline or indulging in corrupt practices in the interest of our nation.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, who enumerated the successes and developmental strides achieved by the University said the University also has numerous challenges such as hostel accommodation, inadequate water source and infrastructure that need concerted efforts from all stakeholders to surmount. He appealed to government, friends of the University, philanthropists and the Alumni to rise up to the challenges and make their contributions as the University is ready to partner with all and committed to meeting those challenges.

Speaking on behalf of all the new graduates, the best graduating student Ngozichukwu Bright Ugochukwu with the CGPA of 4.81 who was represented by the second best graduating student Okeke Joy Chidinma with CGPA 4.77, urged other students to work hard in order to succeeds in their studies.

At this year's Convocation Ceremony, a total of 3,741 students graduated. Out of this number, 3,096 received First Degrees, 426 Masters Degrees, 46 Ph.Ds and 173 Post Graduate Diplomas. Of those who graduated with First Degrees, 62 bagged First Class while 1,006 are in the Second Class Upper Division, 1,526 have Second

Class Lower Division, 468, Third Class and 34 Pass Degrees.

As part of activities that marked the 27th Convocation Ceremony and 35th Founder's Day, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Dr. Abdullahi B. Baffa flagged off the newly completed School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) Complex Phase II.

There was also an exhibition during which the different departments in the University showcased their inventions for the general public and industry.

CORRUPTION: SAGAY CALLS FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP

For Nigeria to get out of its present state of affairs occasioned by corrupt practices of the elite, the executive arm of government will have apply strength, power and discipline in operating the country's democracy.

Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC), Prof. Itsejuwa Sagay SAN made this call on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 when he delivered the 27th Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Gidan Kwano campus.



Prof. Sagay SAN presenting the 27th Convocation lecture of the University

In the titled *Nigeria: "The Travails of an Animal Kingdom,"* the legal icon citing examples of some developing countries that have been propelled to greatness by their leaders, pointed out that there was a correlation between strong leadership and development.

He likened the propensity of the Nigerian elite to acquire illicit wealth for the benefit of themselves and their families to animalistic instinct that is selfish and guided by the desire to consume.

According to him, given the tendencies of the country's elite, Nigeria is not yet ready for the operation of liberal democracy and as such, the leadership must utilise creative powers to operate the Constitution without giving room for abuses.

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CORRUPTION: SAGAY CALLS FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP

He maintained that corruption has devastated all spheres of human activity and the future of the youth is eaten by the corrupt elite.

The immediate consequences of corruption by the elite are unemployment, poor infrastructural and social amenities as well as increase in criminality and suicide, he said.

The Presidential Adviser wondered why people would loot what they cannot spend in 10 life times whilst exposing the rest of the population to poverty, misery and death.

Prof. Sagay frowned at a situation where judges alleged to be involved in corrupt practices seek to escape trial hiding under the disciplinary powers of the National Judicial Commission (NJC) and described the Court of Appeal judgement in favour of such judicial officers as "judicial pronouncement of immunity."

According to him, the greatest protection of a judge is high moral authority.

Going down memory lane, Prof. Sagay noted that Nigeria has been faced with a declining quality of political elite since the end of the First Republic, that have plunged the country into "socio-political wilderness," a situation that has made the country to become a caricature of suffering humanity.

The catalogue of Nigeria's misfortunes, he opined, is compounded by complete loss of values and obsessive love of acquisition.

He also condemned the disproportionate gap between the remunerations of top public servants and the lower ranking ones who earn minimum wage, a situation he said was against International Labour Organisation's standards.

In his remarks, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University's Governing Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle said the political elite was the most culpable in the issue of corruption.

Prof. Odekunle said he was against the death penalty being advocated as penalty for corruption, opting instead for imprisonment, which would deprive such persons the use of stolen monies, and in turn make their families see them suffer the consequences of their actions.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala *FSSSN*, described the lecture as illuminating in terms of the problems facing Nigeria today. He thanked Prof. Sagay for delivering the lecture.

CONDOLENCE

The Registrar has, on behalf of Council, Senate, Staff and Students of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, condoled Lt. Col. Buhari Madaki of Bangui Street, Wuse 2, Abuja over the death of his father, late Col. John Yahaya Madaki Rtd, which sad event occurred on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Late Col. Madaki was one time member of the University Governing Council.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

COUNCIL PAYS HOMAGE TO EMIR OF MINNA

The Governing Council, Federal University of Technology, Minna led by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle has paid homage to His Royal Highness, the Emir of



The Emir of Minna (m) flanked by the University Governing Council members after the visit.

Minna, Alh. (Dr.) Umar Farouq Bahago, CON in his palace on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

Speaking during the visit, Prof. Odekunle who revealed that the visit, was to pay homage to the Monarch as the Chief Host of the University expressed gratitude for the warm reception accorded them.

"We're happy to have the University in a serene environment which enables learning and research to take place; we thank you for your royal blessing and the peaceful coexistence between the University and its host community," the Council Chairman maintained.

The Pro-Chancellor further stated that the visit was to officially invite the Royal Father to the 27th Convocation Ceremony and the 35th Founder's Day of the University and to also present the new VC to him.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, *FSSSN* immensely thanked the Emir for the audience and all supports to the University.

Responding, the Royal father congratulated the newly constituted council and the Vice-Chancellor for their well deserved appointments and assured the University his support and fatherly advice in order for the institution to move forward.

The Emir thanked God for the cordial relationship enjoyed by both the University and the host community while promising to grace the occasion. He prayed for God's continuous blessing and protection for the Council members, the Vice-Chancellor and the University at large.