

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR FOLASADE TOLUOPE OGUNSOLA, OON, FAS, AT THE PRE-CONVOCATION PRESS CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026, AT THE SENATE CHAMBER, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS.**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics and Research), **Professor Bola Oboh**,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development Services), **Professor Foluso Ebun Afolabi Lesi**,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), **Professor Muyiwa Falaiye**,

Ag. Registrar, **Mrs. V. Abosede Wickliffe**,

The Bursar, **Mrs. Olufunmilola Adekunle**,

The University Librarian, **Professor Olatokunbo Okiki**,

Provost, College of Medicine, **Professor Ademola Oremosu**,

Deans of Faculty,

Members of Senate,

The Chairman, Ceremonies Committee,

Directors,

Heads of Department/Unit,

Members of the University Community,

Gentlemen of the Print and Electronic Media,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to this Pre-Convocation Press Conference for the 56th Convocation Ceremonies of the University of Lagos. This event formally ushers in our week-long celebration during which we will award first degrees, diplomas, certificates, postgraduate diplomas, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as honorary awards.

The convocation activities will begin on Friday, January 16, with a Jumaat Service at the University Central Mosque. Events will continue on Monday, January 19, starting at 9:00 a.m. with the unveiling of the UNILAG multimedia Library studio, a state-of-the-art facility funded through a world bank centre of excellence projects to empower students and researchers to document Nigeria's rich cultural heritage on digital media. This will be followed by an exhibition showcasing innovations and creative works by our staff and students at the Jelili Omotola (Multi-Purpose) Hall.

At noon of the same day, the Convocation Lecture titled- "Maximizing Nigeria's Demographic Dividend through Urgent Education Reform for Global Competitiveness in the 21st Century," will be delivered by **Mr. Orondaam Otto**, at the J.F. Ade-Ajai Auditorium. Mr. Otto is the founder of Slum2School Africa and pioneer of the first Virtual Learning Classroom in Sub-Saharan Africa. We anticipate a thought-provoking lecture on rethinking education so as to actualise and optimise the human capital that is critical to our national development. The lecture will be chaired by **Prof. Rahamon A. Bello**, FAEEng the 11th Vice Chancellor of the University and the President of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, who will bring his wealth of experience to bear on highlighting and summarising the key points of the lecture.

On Tuesday, January 20, the University will confer first degrees, diplomas, certificates, and prizes on graduands from the Faculties of Arts, Architecture, Communication and Media Studies, Creative Arts, Education, Environmental Sciences, Life Sciences, Physical and Earth Sciences, Computing and Informatics, and Social Sciences. This will be followed on Wednesday, January 21, by degree awards for graduands from the College of Medicine-covering Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Dental Sciences, and Health Professions-as well as the Faculties of Engineering, Law, Management Sciences, Pharmacy, and the Distance Learning Institute.

Thursday, January 22, 2026, will be dedicated to the conferment of postgraduate diplomas, master's and doctoral degrees, including DBA and EMBA, on graduands of the School of Postgraduate Studies and the University of Lagos Business School. A major highlight of the day will be the recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Nigeria, scholarship and humanity. Two retired academics **Professor James Dele OLOWOKUJDEJO** of the Department of Botany and **Professor Duro ONI** of the Department of Theatre Arts-will be honoured as Emeritus Professors. In addition, **Professor Akinsanya Olayide OSIBOGUN**, a distinguished scholar of medicine, will be conferred with the title of Distinguished Professor. Gold Medals will also be awarded to **Professor Ayoka Mopelola OLUSAKIN**, Professor of Counselling Psychology, and Dr. **(Mrs.) Taiwo Folasade IPAYE**, FNIM, Director of the Office of Advancement, President of the University of Lagos Women society and former Registrar, in recognition of their sustained service to the University and the nation.

The University will also confer honorary degrees on two outstanding Nigerians whose lives exemplify hard work, and service. **Mr. Jubril Adewale TINUBU**, CON, will receive the Doctor of Business degree and **Barrister Kanu Godwin AGABI**, CON, SAN, former Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of the Federation and former Minister of Solid Minerals Development, will be awarded the Doctor of Laws degree.

Activities will continue on Friday, January 23, 2026, with Luncheon with the Doyen and the Long Service Award ceremony at 10:00 a.m. followed in the afternoon by the Convocation Play. This year's production in continuation with our focus on our history, is Ola Rotimi's "Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi," to be staged at the J.F. Ade-Ajaii Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.

The 56th Convocation Ceremonies will formally conclude on Sunday, January 25, 2026, with a Thanksgiving Service at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Christ Our Light, University of Lagos. Do join us.

This year, we will be graduating 16,506 students of these 10,584 students will receive first degrees and diplomas while 5,782 will be awarded postgraduate degrees while 140 will graduate from the UNILAG business School. Our overall best graduating student who is also the best graduating student in the Humanities is **Chukwuzubelu Benedict UMEOZO** from the faculty of Management Sciences, Department of Business Administration with a perfect score of 5.0. The best graduating student from the Science is **Deborah Isiuwa OLOTON** from the Faculty of Architecture in the department of Architecture with CGPA of 4.91.

The overall best Ph.D. Thesis award for this year goes to **Haruna Egbunu ABUBAKAR** who obtained his Ph.D.in Civil and Environmental Engineering (Structures option) while the best Ph.D. thesis (Humanities) is **Beatice Paul ZUHUMNEN** in Educational Psychology. The best Ph. D thesis (DBA) from the ULBS is **Oyeyemi Idowu ADEBAMOWO**.

## GRADUATION STATISTICS

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME SUMMARY STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF FIRST CLASS DEGREES & DISTINCTIONS:- **709**

TOTAL NUMBER OF SECOND CLASS UPPER (2<sup>1</sup>) DEGREES: - **4543**

TOTAL NUMBER OF SECOND CLASS LOWER (2<sup>2</sup>) DEGREES: - **3910**

TOTAL NUMBER OF THIRD CLASS (3<sup>rd</sup>) DEGREES: - **1023**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PASS DEGREES: - **69**

TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED DEGREES - **330**

**TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE** - **10584**

### POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME	DISTINCTION	PASS	TOTAL
PGD	41	438	479
MASTERS' DEGREE	429	4,755	5,184
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY	-	-	-
Ph.D.	-	119	119
ULBS (MASTERS)	32	80	112
ULBS (DBA)	-	28	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>5,922</b>

TOTAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES - **5,922**

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES - **10,584**

**TOTAL GRADUANDS** - **16,506**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of Senate, staff, alumni, partners, and all stakeholders for their continued commitment to sustaining the University of Lagos as a leading tertiary institution in Nigeria.

**Gentlemen of the press**, the last year has seen us make strides in our triple mandate of research, teaching and community service firmly anchored on our vision to increase brand recognition and the impact of the university both nationally and globally. The University has continued to strengthen collaborations, expand student exposure to competitions, internships, and global learning opportunities, and deliberately created environments that inspire innovation, critical thinking, and inquiry. We have retained our 1st position in Nigeria (with UI) in the 2026 Times higher Education ranking placing us in the 801-1000 band **globally** out of 2,191 institutions. A deep dive into the ranking showed Unilag was first in research quality and Industry income. UNILAG also emerged Winner of the Most **International African Institution (West Africa) 2025**, awarded by the International Education (TINE) at its Africa Summit. For its exceptional impact in advancing international education opportunities.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND STUDENT HOUSING**

The university is committed to continuously upgrading the campus to provide an environment that supports thinking, learning and innovating. In the last year a number of buildings were completed. These buildings will be commissioned in the next few months. I want to use this medium to publicly thank our stakeholders, alumni and industry partners

- The J.F. Ade Ajayi Auditorium was renovated by the Lagos State Government was opened on Thursday, October 9, 2025. The Chairs were replaced, air conditioning revamped and some toilets were rehabilitated and new sound system installed. We thank the Lagos State Government particularly our distinguished Alumni, Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his continued support of the infrastructural development of our university.
- **UNDP** AI-Unipod-UNILAG UniPod facility developed as part of the UNDP Timbuktoo project has been completed and will be a centre of excellence for Artificial Intelligence-focused ecosystem aimed at advancing research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership in The hub features an Artificial Intelligence Lab, Exhibition Space, and Event Space, as well as a Design Lab, Design Studio, Maker Space, Collaboration Spaces, and Pitch Garage and will provide this capability for
- **UNILAG Window on America (WOA)-In** collaboration with the US embassy, a student-centred learning space -The Window on America (WOA) space has been completed. It provides resources for learning, seminars and a serene space to read and think.

- **UBA building** which started early 2025 is undergoing finishing touches and will be commissioned this Quarter. It is a building with 3 suspended floors and a roof garden. Two floors are to be used by the university. We thank UBA management which is the oldest bank on this campus for their partnership. We also appreciate their completion of the UBA park and the beautiful Christmas lights that illuminated the park last Christmas season.
- **The SNEPCO building for Geosciences** has been completed. This building Institute of Maritime studies: The first phase of the project has been completed comprising laboratories, offices and lecture rooms. When fully functional will include a simulation lab for training of sea men. We are most grateful to the Minister of the blue economy, the DG and management of NIMASA for their support and the important work we do together
- **Investment club:** last convocation ceremonies, one of our awardees, an alumnus Mr Kola Adesina promised to provide a business simulation space for our students in economics, biz admin, finance.

Hostels: the university has since two years ago been working to add more bed spaces and manage them through private/public partnerships.

• ***State of Hostels***

the university has been in the news recently concerning student accommodation. While it will be impossible to house all students, last year we carried out Hostel Rehabilitations and upgrade of 7 hostels, Makama Bida, Biobaku, Eni Njoku, Jaja, Madam Tinubu, Moremi, Fagunwa, and Kofo Ademola Hostels with funding from the TETFund 2023 and 2024 Annual Interventions. I am proud to inform you that this completed, and our students have moved in. We are also starting the rehabilitation of the hostels at the College of Medicine starting this year with Ali Akilu hostel.

The university of Lagos has about 10,599 bed spaces. And We are projecting to add another 7836 bed spaces by 2027 all things being equal. This is both through TETFund and PPP. The 5 contractors that have been qualified have moved to site and are at different stages of commencement. Three of the PPP are off campus at Iwaya, Morounfolu and Abule Oja.

**Energy continues** to be challenging and while we await the Rural Electrification project to take off some of our facilities have got solar energy back up systems

**Medical** Centre-, one of our world bank centres-SPESSE, upgraded the power in the Unilag Medical Centre with 120KVA solar inverter.

- **Subsea Engineering: The university is** partnering with Marine Platforms to develop an institute of subsea engineering. The facility is being built but courses and training will commence this year in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen.
- In the coming year we expect completion of a number of buildings such as the Student Experience Centre that will be the seat of the Student Union. The timelines

and program for its implementation has been approved and should commence after convocation

- Office of the vice chancellor and registrar were renovated by Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries (MFM) Dr. D.K. Olukoya. These were commissioned on 7th of January.

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION

Our **Automate UNILAG** digital transformation initiative is underway, covering IT strategy, governance, enterprise architecture, and infrastructure upgrades. The University website is wearing a new look and is still being populated., the Wi-Fi bandwidth is being expanded. Key systems, including ERP and electronic document management, systems are scheduled for completion before the end of the year. Two data centres have been renovated

A major innovation milestone was the launch of the **ITMO AI** Chatbot-the first digital intellectual property and patent registry of its kind in any Nigerian tertiary institution. The platform simplifies IP submissions, strengthens research commercialisation, and supports industry partnerships.

## RESEARCH, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Through our various hubs, ITMO, ESDC, and NITHUB, the University supported innovation at scale:

- Over **14,000 both students and youths from the town were trained** in 2025 alone
- **61 startups supported**, with some securing external funding
- **58 IP rights processed** and **29 startups registered**
- Over **#50 million** awarded for prototype development
- Nearly **10,000 participants** engaged across entrepreneurship and skills programmes

These initiatives significantly exceeded annual targets and reflect UNILAG's growing national and global impact.

## INTERNATIONALISATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The **4th UNILAG International Week** held in October 2025 attracted over 2,000 **participants** from government, industry, academia, and the diplomatic community. Highlights included:

- UNILAG's partnership with **OpenAI**, leading to the establishment of the first **OpenAI Academy in Africa**
- **BNSc programme** with the Nigerian Army College of Nursing
- Public Leadership and Statecraft programme with the **Citadel School of Government**

## ACADEMIC EXPANSION AND GRANTS

The University expanded from 12 to 19 **faculties**, following Senate approval to unbundle key disciplines, improving academic focus and governance. There are 5 faculties from 3 at the college of Medicine and 14 at Akoka from 9. These includes: **Faculties of Creative Arts** was birthed from Faculty of Arts; **Basic Clinical Sciences** (med micro, chemical pathology, anatomic and molecular pathology and haematology, clinical pharmacology) taken from Faculties of Basic Medical Sc & Clinical Sciences; **Health Professions** (med-lab sci, physiotherapy, nursing) taken from Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences & Clinical **Sciences**; **Architecture** taken from Faculty of Environmental Sciences; **Physical & Earth** taken from Faculty of Science; Life Science taken from Faculty of Science; Computing Science from Faculty of Science (Computer Science); **Agriculture & Food Science** from Faculty of Science (Marine/Fisheries); and Comm. & **Media** Studies from Faculty of Social Sciences (Mass Communication). The faculties have commenced operations, and New Deans have been appointed.

Universities are also judged by their research income. Major grants and interventions include:

- Renewal of the **African Multiple Cluster of Excellence** with the University of Bayreuth (2026-2032)
- International research and culture grants from ARUA and EUNIC
- The University will formally commission a molecular laboratory that is funded by our global partners the Aligning Science Across Parkinson's (ASAP). Parkinson's is the world's second most common neurodegenerative disease and fastest-growing in prevalence, and ASAP's focus is building collaborative and transparent research processes in an environment that can deliver faster and better

research outcomes for Parkinson's disease. ASAP supports the work of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2) and it is under this collaboration that it has, for half a decade, been funding Africa's largest Parkinson's disease research cohort coordinated from the University of Lagos. Their overall grant commitment to Parkinson's research at Unilag has exceeded \$1.5 million to date. To further its' philosophy of strengthening research capacity in under-represented countries, ASAP has funded the establishment and equipping of a Molecular Laboratory at the CMUL, with equipment and personnel support valued at over 250 million naira. The lab is situated at the recently commissioned KAARC building and will serve as an automated DNA extraction facility and biobank, with plans to scale its genomics capabilities. The lab will also accommodate internships by undergraduate and postgraduate students, support other researchers, and provide trainings in genomics and bioinformatics. The PI is Prof Njideka Okubadejo a professor of neurology

## **GRANT OUTLOOK-need figures**

The university attracted grants worth \$17,375,431.2 million dollars. This amount to over 24 billion naira, of these a large portion came from health-related research.

## **STAFFING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

In August 2025, the Federal Government approved the recruitment of **350 academic and non-teaching staff** across Akoko and the College of Medicine. The recruitment process is currently underway. Significant progress was also made in staff promotions and welfare, alongside extensive capacity-building programmes in digital skills, research, administration, and entrepreneurship.

## **STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Staff recruitment, promotions, welfare, and capacity building continued, with hundreds trained locally and internationally. Several staff received national and international honours for research, leadership, and professional excellence.

Our students continued to excel:

- **43 UNILAG Law graduates** earned First Class honours at the Nigerian Law School
- **6 of 15 Bank of America Africa interns** were **UNILAG** students

## **GREEN CAMPUS**

UNILAG recorded a major breakthrough in sustainable transportation, reducing over **120metric tonnes of CO2** emissions through its Electric Vehicle initiative. In addition, the university beautification committee under the leadership of Prof. Kayode Eesuola have been doing a stellar job creating outdoor parks where students and staff can sit out. The adopt a park concept called Unilag Campus connect Park initiative is designed to keep our campus green and provide a clean and serene environment for staff and students. We want to thank Iya Moria, Faculty of Law, ULWS etc.

Advancement office: we celebrated and honoured our alumni and friends of the university

## **CULTURE, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

We are committed to decolonising our minds and promoting our culture. Beyond academics, we continued to promote **culture, creativity, and community engagement** through initiatives UNILAG in Town, we performed Moremi Ajasoro at TERRA Kulture in July 2025 and had a grand production to set off Detty December at the Ade Ajayi theatre. This grand finale included an art exhibition, musical performance by the students. It was a fitting

end to an interesting year, we intend to do this every year. We want to thank our sponsors Alpha morgan, Axial, marine Platforms, (contractor for student centre)

This past year was a year of growth on many fronts despite the harsh economic realities we all faced. I want to use this medium for the support the university has had from all stakeholders. I particularly thank the staff and students and gentlemen of the press. As we look to another year may we do so in partnership committed to growth and excellence as we continue to make our university more **innovative, globally connected, student-focused, and impact-driven.**

Thank you for your attention