



ADDRESS BY THE RECTOR, DR. MUKAIL AREMU AKINDE, FCA, FCTI, AT THE 21ST COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO, ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

Protocols

1. The Visitor to the Best Polytechnic in Nigeria, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, Honourable Minister of Education ably represented by Directors and Officers from the Ministry, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the State, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), our legal major benefactor, TETFund, other dignitaries, the Management Team, Chairman of Committee of Rector duly represented by the Secretary, Visiting Rectors, Vice Chancellors, Provosts, Registrars, Librarians and Bursars, past Rectors, Registrars, and other Principal Officers, Members of Academic Board, Management Committee, Deans of School, Directors and Heads of Unit, staff members, FPI Alumni body, students, the Student Union Executives, gentlemen and women of the Press, my affable graduands at this promising event, with delight, I formally and specially welcome all of you to this epochal and historical occasion marking the 21st combined convocation ceremony of our institution, leading to the awards of National Diplomas, Higher National Diplomas across various Schools, Departments and fellowship award to Alhaji (Chief) Ganiyu Adetokunboh Ogunfemi, an illustrious alumnus and Balogun of Al Huda, Nigeria/United Kingdom.

As an alumnus and the first indigenous Rector of this great Polytechnic, I feel very honoured and humbled to stand before you at the first convocation I am presiding over since Allah made it possible for me to take over the mantle of leadership of this great institution as Rector on September 27, 2022. Please permit me to use this opportunity to appreciate the 11th Council of this great Polytechnic, which was ably led by the former Council Chairman, Dr. Mrs. Veronica Ogbuagu, the former Rector, Arc. Olusegun Olanrewaju Aluko, Ph.D., and the entire external and internal Council Members for their thoroughness and transparency in the processes that led to our final selections. The 11th Council, under the leadership of the Chairman, was able to peacefully midwife five (5) new Principal Officers simultaneously (Rector, two Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursar) by providing a level playing ground to all contestants across the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. On behalf of all the appointed Principal Officers of the Polytechnic in 2022, I say a loud thank you to the Council, the Federal Ministry of Education, and the Federal Government of our dear country.

2. It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome The Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, representing the Visitor to this Polytechnic, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, duly represented by the team of Directors and officers from the Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja: Mr. Isaac Folorunsho, Mrs. Gloria Opara, Mr. Bola Adamu, and Mrs. Augustina Adiano. With delight, you are welcome to the 21st Combined Convocation Ceremony of the Polytechnic.



3. Furthermore, permit me to humbly, vociferously, and warmly welcome His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Prince (Dr.) Dapo Abiodun, CON. Your Excellency, thank you, Sir, for the excellent job you are doing in Ogun State. The Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Prof. Idris Muhammad Bugaje duly represented by the Southwest Coordinator NBTE Mr. Ayo Aroge. Interestingly, the Board has just approved 19 new programmes for the Polytechnic, Prof. Bugaje's vision for skill acquisition and that of the Polytechnics in general is unparalleled. Thank you, Sir, for the good job you are doing for the Polytechnics in Nigeria. The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, FNIA, who is ably represented by Mr. Oladipupo Salau, Southwest Zonal Coordinator of TETFund. You are warmly welcome to this Convocation Ceremony. Indeed, the entire community is grateful to you for creating time to commission the new TETFUND School of Management Studies (2021/2022) Merged Annual TETFund Intervention on behalf of the Executive Secretary early this morning before the Convocation Ceremony. Ladies and gentlemen, I charmingly welcome every important dignitary to this auspicious event.
4. The entire Polytechnic community feels deeply honoured by the esteemed presence of dignitaries in our midst. We are quite appreciative of the fact that, despite your very busy schedule, you deemed it fit to grace this historical occasion. I also welcome our guests, parents and other well-wishers to the grand finale of the 21st combined convocation ceremony of this great citadel of learning. Also, on behalf of the Visitor to the Polytechnic, it is my joy to welcome the Kabiyesi, His Royal Majesty (HRM), Oba Dr. (ESV) Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle MFR, Asade Agunloye IV, Olu of Ilaro, and The Paramount Ruler of Yewa Land, as well as other Obas and the Olu in Council, the Gbokoto Community, who, after sufficient and adequate compensation and well documented procedures, bequeathed huge land resources of 898.015 hectares to the Polytechnic. Besides, I welcome the Pahayi Community, Orita, Ona-Egbo, and other compounds/Streets in Ilaro, the host community. The Gbokoto Community, honestly, you are the ones that laid the foundation (golden egg), the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, for the benefit of the host community and other towns and villages in the nooks and crannies of Ogun West and Nigeria in general.
5. I crave your indulgence, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to use this historical event to commend His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for his efforts at implementing laudable and courageous policies in his Renewed Hope Agenda aimed at ultimately transforming the country and setting it on the path of sustainable economic development for the prosperity of Nigerians. As a matter of fact, since he was elected and sworn in as the 16th President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the 5th President of the Fourth Republic on Monday, May 29, 2023, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, has demonstrated the courage, sagacity, and will to change the narratives of our dear country. In fact, the President has continued to fervently believe in



Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. Consequently, he has invested in this important educational sector through direct budgetary interventions and TETFund to encourage youths to have access to effective technological education under the new mantra, 'Renewed Hope Agenda'. In addition, His Excellency trusted the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro by appointing Mr. Babatunde Opeyemi of HND 2 Taxation (2022/2023 set) into the Federal Government Presidential Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy. The entire Community is grateful to you for the confidence repose in the Polytechnic Sector. Sir, this is not taken for granted!

6. Thus, we at the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro are quite grateful for the unprecedented interventions of the Federal Government in the education sector and, most importantly, the Polytechnic subsector. Notably, the increase in capital funding captured by the 2024 Appropriation Act and TETFund interventions for the Polytechnic sub-sector is commendable. It gladdens my heart that for the first time in the history of the Polytechnic, after the approval of His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, our institution just got its TETFund allocation of special high-impact interventions to twelve (12) Polytechnics in the six (6) geopolitical zones in the country. Similarly, we are indeed profoundly grateful for the unprecedented increase in capital funding in our Polytechnic in respect of 2024 Appropriation Act. Ladies and gentlemen, the totality of these interventions represents a huge step by the President towards repositioning the Polytechnic sector and other tertiary institutions with the capacity to compete favourably in the modern knowledge economy, in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda.
7. The totality of the projects in the 2024 TETFund Intervention and Appropriation Act will go a long way to mitigate some of the serious current operational challenges affecting optimal curriculum delivery by members of staff and students. We are committed to fully parlaying these new transformational vistas into creating an enhanced learning environment for improved capacity in order to unleash the potential of our students and prepare them with the 21st century skillsets to be self-reliant and mentally capable to grapple with the rigours and technical requirements of the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions.
8. I appreciate all members of staff, under the auspices of ASUP, SSANIP, and NASU, for their unflinching support, commitment to duty, dedication and hard work. The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro's Student Union and all my students are equally appreciated for their cooperation, teachability, and willingness to be partners in our developmental project. Ladies and gentlemen, I make bold to say that we have the best well-behaved and well-dressed students in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions. This is supported with the best staff you can ever work with in any Tertiary Institution in Nigeria and around the world. The Alumni body and all the stakeholders in the community are spectacularly appreciated for their unwavering support. Without the support of these critical stakeholders, the feats notched by the institution in the last one year would have been impossible.



9. It will interest you to note that before I became the Rector in 2022, I was the Vice President of the FPI Alumni. So, I chaired the Fund-Raising Committee that raised above ₦20m for the Alumni Hostel Project. Ladies and gentlemen, the FPI Alumni, under the leadership of the current President, have completed an 80-bedspace state of the art hostel for male students on campus. Thank you, the former President, Alhaji Jamiu Yusuf, and thank you, the current President, Mr. Omowunmi Babatunde Kayode, for completing the hostel. However, the current President, I admonish you to unite all sets in whatever constitutional method feasible so that it is convenient for them to operate as a branch under the FPI Alumni Constitution. Besides, drive the Alumni to replicate the same 80 bedspace facilities for females and more hostels through a public-private partnership on campus. The government cannot do it alone. Thus, much is expected from all alumni of the Polytechnic, including the graduands of today. However, it is worthy of mention and commendable that our alumni association has keyed into our developmental dream as a critical partner.
10. I appreciate the immediate past Management of the institution, under the aegis of Arc Olusegun Aluko, PhD., for laying the groundwork for our numerous achievements. Ladies and gentlemen, let me further crave your indulgence to inform you that in the past one year of our stewardship, God has afforded us the grace to record other significant achievements. For instance, in the last one year, we have been able to secure the approval of 24 new programmes. By the virtue of this, programmes run by the Polytechnic has now increased to 58. To support the developmental agenda of the country, a high number of the new programmes are in Engineering (Industrial Mechatronics, Automative, Autobody, Metallurgical, Renewable Energy, Welding and Fabrication, Cement Technology, Post Harvest Technology, Soil and Water Engineering), and the School of Communication and Information Technology (Bilingual Studies and Multimedia Technology). A new School of Agriculture has been created with two new additional departments (Animal Health & Production Technology, Horticultural Technology) added to Agricultural Technology and three new departments (Procurement & Supply Chain, Crime Management, and Maritime Transport and Business Studies) have been added to the School of Management Studies. In the School of Environmental Studies, we have increased the options in the Department of Art and Design to four (Sculpture, Ceramic, Textile, Painting) and a new Department, Printing Technology, has been added. The new Printing Technology Department is already assisting the Polytechnic to further reduce running costs. We now produce A4 Papers, which are used internally for administrative purposes, and the remaining are being sold to assist the community. Owing to our preparedness, resourcefulness, creativity, and discipline with respect to cost management and optimisation of meagre resources, we were able to attain 100% success at our last accreditation/re-accreditation exercise.
11. In keeping fidelity to making enhancement of the welfare of staff as flagship of our vision, we have consistently ensured that promotion exercises commence early in order to ensure that members of staff are promoted as and when due.



Thus, we have been able to ultimately eliminate delayed promotion and reduce the number of months in arrears payments. The 2023 promotion has now been concluded; we have increased examination allowances by about 40%; commenced the payment of higher examination allowances to Chief Lecturers; and effectuated an increase in Deans' petrol allowance. Our academic staffers are benefiting from long and short-term TETFund interventions. Thus, the number of Ph.D. holders have increased significantly across departments in the Polytechnic; every department has at least 1 or 2 Ph.D. holders.

12. Furthermore, while ensuring the sustenance of HODs and Deans' allowances, we have commenced the payment of allowances to Academic and Non-teaching Directors who have been working day and night, weekdays and weekends, most committed to consummate service delivery, in order to further motivate them to phenomenal feats.
13. As a strategy for ramping up the institution's IGR, we have commenced the processes leading to the expansion of the Polytechnic's bakery, automated water factory, and product franchise, among other novel ideas in the Poly Consult and Industrial Services Limited. Similarly, we have equally commenced the restructuring of several units and directorates, reshaping them to further deliver on their fiscal essence as revenue centres.
14. As an innovation-minded institution, we have now deployed 'disruptive' software, using Python code, in the automation of examination halls' seating arrangements. The software distributes every student of the Polytechnic at random, allocate exam hall, seat number and disseminate the information to the students through text message on phone. Consequently, students at the comfort of their room receive information on the venue, hall and seat for examination. We have automated the central timetable, reducing the resources and manpower required to perform the arduous task of timetable preparation. We have also now modified the mode of teaching in Accounting and teaching with the introduction of students to Accounting and Taxation software in order to afford them an unmatched head-start that would ultimately make them leapfrog knowledge barriers and compete favourably in the professional market place.
15. Similarly, as a quality control measure, we have introduced biometric devices for the use of members of staff and students. It will interest you to note that the biometric devices should have been imported at an exorbitant price of ₦750,800/device excluding Withholding Tax of 10% and 7.5% VAT. The biometric device was designed and assembled by the students and lecturers of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science of this Polytechnic. To support the innovation, TETFund supported the manufacturing of 75 biometric devices with fabrication funds of ₦39,564,294.10, ₦527,253.92 per device on December 8, 2023. The support from the fabrication funds of TETFund led to cost savings of ₦223,546.08 per device, totalling ₦16,765,956. The device was designed and customised locally by our students and lecturers to meet local needs, such as the percentage of students' attendants



at classes, examinations, movements in and out of the hostel, library, medical centre, and directorate of student affairs, among others. The uses are in phases. This will soon be fully deployed in the 2023/2024 academic session. We have also commenced the internal production of identity cards for students and staff to have reliable statistics to support planning in the Polytechnic.

16. In addition, the TETFund new School of Management Studies' complex has just been completed. Also, we have almost completed the roads (Federal Government Project) linking the School of Management and Mass Communication Departments. The new ICT facility (2022 FME Needs Assessment Intervention) being constructed within the campus would definitely help broaden our digital ecosystem and further prepare our students for the digital requirements of the world of work.
17. Moreover, we have commenced our unprecedented work-study scheme. The overarching objective is to assist indigent, but upwardly mobile students cope with the increasing cost of survival, with the view to ensuring that incidents of students dropping out of school as a result of financial difficulties are outrightly eliminated. It is also to ensure that our students are integrated into the development process and made to plot their learning curves as they deploy their innovative tendencies and creative energies in fixing the problems of their immediate environment. In fact, the Directorate of Student Affairs has been directed to include road maintenance in Civil Engineering and farming for other interested students to earn income as well as studying.
18. The Honourable Minister, I am pleased to announce to you that on September 27, 2023, the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro commissioned the TV Poly Ilaro, which aside from representing a major growth pole, will train and enable our students in Mass Communication and Music to compete with other graduates in the world. This will also assist us in harvesting and selling raw talents among our students to the whole world. Besides, it will offer a platform and focus for our community and beyond when it comes to awareness and enlightenment about the social, economic, political, and environmental issues that impact them. Moreover, it would offer a creative outlet for students and help deepen town and gown relationships. The TV station will afford students in relevant departments, Fine Arts and Design, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Hospitality Management, Nutrition and Dietetics among others, the opportunity to put their skills into practice, with some of them hopefully becoming gainfully employed by the TV station.
19. Permit me to mention, ladies and gentlemen, that in order to improve on our impacts on the research's ecosystem, we have provided a window of institutional sponsorship for publications in Scopus and Web of Science-indexed journals. The idea is aimed at sponsoring two publications per school at a maximum of 1000 dollars per paper. We have continued to hone our strategies for actualising enhanced digital visibility and greater web citations, an endeavour that has significantly contributed to our ranking as the best Polytechnic in Nigeria in the



latest Webometrics ranking, a product of Cybermetric Lab, a unit of the Spanish National Research Council.

20. In furtherance of the quest to prepare our students adequately for the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions, our Innovation Centre has come up with several products' development initiatives, the latest being the Electric Tricycle, which the Polytechnic has recently unveiled and wishes to mass reproduce. Visitors are enjoined to visit the Exhibition and Innovation Centre to witness and testify to the wonders this Polytechnic can do. We are Polytechnic with a knack for innovative drive!
21. With respect to academic conferences, the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro was able to pull off a spectacular collaboration with Takoradi Technological University, Ghana, and successfully hosted its 4th International Conference between September 4 and September 6, 2023. All Schools in the Polytechnic, ranging from the School of Management Studies, School of Environmental Studies, School of Engineering Technology, School of Pure and Applied Studies, and the School of Communication and Information Technology, held their National Conferences successfully in the last one year.
22. Recall that in 2022, The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro further made deeper inroads into the competitive world of research by winning its first TETFund National Research Fund's Grant and ranking among the few Nigerian Polytechnics that have won the highly competitive grant. This was achieved as a result of the Management's intensification of staff training with respect to grant proposal writing, an endeavour that has yielded even more. This is most instantiated by the scraping through of three of our concept notes to the proposal stage in the last cycle of applications' calls. We have never had as many of our applications reach this stage. Eventually, two of our grant proposals made it to the finals for physical defence before the National Research Fund Screening and Verification Committee. The successful NRF projects that won grants cumulatively valued at ₦53,321,103 are: Assessing the Viability of Green Sukuk as a Funding Alternative for Climate Change and Energy Poverty Mitigation in Nigeria (₦25,000,000) and Identification of Novel Biomarkers and Development of a 'Population-Specific' Rapid Diagnostic Test Kit for Diagnosis of Malaria Subtypes in Nigeria (₦28,321,103). Similarly, the Polytechnic has just won the sum of ₦115,030,574.00 in respect of 66 TETFund's Institutional Based Research (IBR)'s intervention. In the same vein, The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, in conjunction with The Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia, was able to pull off a collaborative application in respect of a handsome development focused research grant.
23. Currently, we have made notable marks with respect to looking inward in order to fix our local energy challenges. We have sent a proposal of N9 billion to UNIDO to assist in providing a 5-megawatt hydro turbine generator at the Gbokoto stream. We have equally written to Dangote Cement Plc at Ibese to support the Polytechnic by supplying electricity from the factory at an agreed price to eliminate the humongous costs of procuring diesel on a daily basis to run



practical for our students. It is our hope that the Polytechnic will soon solve the serious electricity conundrums. We are using this platform to call on the stakeholders to help solve the electricity quandary of the Polytechnic. This is because we have a farming idle implement that can ease the value chain in the Agriculture, if we do have electricity.

24. As a Management, the achievement of work-life balance was part of our vision and working hypothesis. This we have started realising through our enhanced support and promotion of sporting activities among members of staff, which culminated in our institution's superlative performance at the 2023 NBTE/ NIPOSSGA, which was held between September 16 and 23, 2023, at The Polytechnic Ibadan. Apart from picking up a gold medal in the lawn tennis singles' category, our senior staff's football team made it to the semi-finals for the very first time in the history of our participation.
25. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to announce to you the Convocation Statistics. A total number of 10,477 graduands have been found worthy both in character and learning for the award of National Diplomas and Higher National Diplomas of our great Polytechnic by the Academic Board. For the 2021/2022 graduating class, the total number of male graduates produced from the HND programme is 426, while the total number of female graduates produced from the same programme is 663. Altogether, a total number of 179 students made distinction grade in the HND programme, with the best students- Sanusi Kehinde Salimot, a female student of the Department of Accountancy, and Sotuminu Elizabeth Temitope, a female student of the Science Laboratory Technology Department, graduating with 3.89 apiece. In addition, 868 male students successfully graduated from the institution's ND programme, while a total of 887 female students graduated from the same programme. Altogether, a total of 164 students made distinction grade in the ND programme, with the best student- Adeleke Asisat Ayobami, a female student of the Department of Science Laboratory Technology, graduating with a 3.88 CGPA. A total number of 553 male students graduated from the ND (Part-time programme), while a total number of 722 female students graduated from the same programme.
26. With respect to the 2022/2023 graduating class, the total number of male graduates produced from the HND programme is 943, while the total number of female graduates produced from the same programme is 1373. Altogether, a total number of 175 students made distinction grade in the HND programme, with the best students- Salaudeen Azeezat Arike of the Office Technology Management, a female, and Ogungbayi Alimot Abisola of the Science Laboratory Technology (Bio-chemistry option), a female, graduating with 3.90 apiece. In addition, 1042 male students successfully graduated from the institution's ND programme, while a total of 1187 students graduated from the same programme. Altogether, a total number of 277 students made distinction grade in the ND programme, with the best student- Awojoola, Samuel Adeyemi of the Department of Business Administration and Management, a male, graduating with a 3.90 CGPA. A total number of 805 male students graduated from the ND



(Part-time programme), while a total number of 1008 female students graduated from the same programme.

27. Worthy of note is the fact that today, as approved by the Academic Board and the 11th Governing Council of the Polytechnic, we are bestowing our highest honour of fellowship on an eminent personality. The recipient, Dr. Adedoyin Tokunboh Ogunfemi, is a great and illustrious alumnus of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro who has distinguished himself through his commendable service to our great institution, country, and humanity. I am seizing this opportunity to once again appreciate him, not just for his impactful endowments at the Polytechnic but for his rare dedication, passion, and incurable identification with our brand.
28. Our graduands, I congratulate you all on the successful completion of your programmes of studies, having been assessed worthy of receiving our certificates. Bear it in mind that your parents, institution, and nation have invested a lot in you. Now is the time to begin to unleash your potential and put into use the 21st century training skills and capabilities you have acquired in the course of your intense training. Now is the time to elevate the bar of your morality and productivity and begin to materialise as good plenipotentiaries of your families, Polytechnic, and nation anywhere you find yourselves. You cannot afford to fail. You cannot afford to be caught in the dangerous web and vicious cycle, and entrapment of cybercrime, drug abuse, cultism, and all dimensions of corruption and shameful vices. I am using this opportunity to welcome you into the fold of the Alumni body of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro. I am an alumnus of the Polytechnic. Please support the FPI Alumni body. It is our hope that you will grow to become successful and ultimately become progressive partners in the development project of your alma mater. HND and ND certificates are primary certifications. You need to set your new goals today to aim for the best by expanding your knowledge, acquired skills, do not be arrogant, be hardworking and prayerful and get ready to contribute in nation building because the country has invested in you. Again, do stay away from crime and social vices, be good citizens of the country. Do not be inferior to anyone because you have been well trained with the best of equipment and lecturers, therefore, I charge you to go to the world and fly where the Eagles Dare! I graduated here like you in 1994. Keep working hard and be prayerful, you can do better than I am doing today. May God help you all.
29. The Honourable Minister, our modest achievements notwithstanding, and while being eternally grateful to the Administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for its significant interventions, I wish to seek your support and that of all our development partners on some of our current needs that can further increase our capacity to be able to improve on our mandate as a Polytechnic. These needs include: Electricity, Big Auditoriums, Offices, Roads, Classrooms, Coaster Buses for the students' field trips; Toyota Hilus; Laboratories; Equipment; Students' Hostels; and new books for our library. Ladies and gentlemen, may I emphasize that in the coming years, we can do more and scale up our feats with increased funding and support from the government, our development partners, and



stakeholders? With increased funding, we'll be able to actualize the implementation of critical development enablers that will enhance the productivity of staff and enhance students' cognitive experience.

30. It is my singular honour to appreciate all the past Council Chairmen and Council Members, former Rectors, Registrar and former Management team of the school for their sincere support and advice that have since been spurring us to do more. The present Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursar, the Polytechnic Librarians, Members of the Academic Board, Management Committee, Deans and Directors, and the entire staff, I cannot achieve anything without your support. A football team that plays together always wins a football competition. Your words of encouragement have been invaluable as we strive towards further building on your legacies and notching phenomenal feats.
31. The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), under the leadership of Prof. Idris Muhammad Bugaje, thank you for your vision and believe in skill acquisition. You have indeed changed the narrative of the Polytechnic. Without the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), as a Polytechnic we cannot survive. I am using this platform to lavishly thank the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, ably represented by Mr. Oladipupo Salau, Southwest Zonal Coordinator of TETFund. Your vision and leadership skills in the development paths of the Polytechnics in general are indeed commendable. Similarly, the Presidency, Ogun State Governor, His Excellency, Prince (Dr.) Dapo Abiodun, CON, National Assembly, Federal Ministry of Education, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO), NABTEB, and other critical stakeholders. Thank you for the uncommon support.
32. Moreover, we owe our secure environment to the efficiency and cooperation of all security personnel operating within the town (FPI security personnel, Nigeria Police Force, DSS, Civil Defense, FRSC, Amotekun, Local Vigilante Group, etc.). We appreciate all of you for your unalloyed cooperation.
33. May I profoundly appreciate our host town, headed by the Kabiyesi, His Royal Majesty (HRM), Oba Dr. (ESV) Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle MFR, Asade Agunloye IV, Olu of Ilaro, and The Paramount Ruler of Yewa Land, including the Obas, the traditional chiefs and our vibrant political leaders, the Gbokoto Community, Pahayi Community, town and gowns, for supporting us through sundry developmental interventions and most importantly affording us the enabling environment requisite for smooth running of our affairs, peaceful habitation, and sojourns on/off campus and around the nooks and crannies of Ilaro.
34. I must profoundly appreciate all our spiritual leaders, including those operating off campus, the Christian community on campus, and the Muslim community, whom God has been using to intercede for us secretly and openly.



35. Let me once again appreciate my highly resourceful Principal Officers, members of staff, students, and the Ilaro community for their commitment, support, and cooperation. Thank you for remaining committed to sustaining the legacies of our past leaders and essentially keying into the vision of this administration. May God bless you all.
36. The organiser of this convocation is the Ceremonies Committee, ably headed by Engr. Olumuyiwa Aikulola. The Committee and all members, I doff my cap for you. It is a job well done. The Orators, which have been effectively coordinated by a former Council member, Barrister Hakeem Olugbolahan Dawodu, thank you for your commitment and oracy towards the success of this event. The Music Department, headed by Dr. Olaleye, you have made this event colourful. God bless you.
37. The graduands, if I started here as a Clerical Officer in 1987 as well as a vendor, supporting my parents to sell newspapers early in the morning and eventually becoming the Rector today, I charge you to be committed, work hard, and pray; you can be greater and better for our dear country. Please stay in the country to change the narrative of the country of your birth. Our President and the Political Leaders are showing leadership directions to achieve the laudable objectives of re-engineering Nigeria for the prosperity of every Nigerian.
38. Please, my dear graduands, your certificates are duly signed and ready for collection. Take advantage of your presence at this Convocation, complete the necessary formalities, and collect it to avoid payment of demurrage for keeping the certificates.
39. Finally, I want to thank my wife, TPL Akinde, A. S. Nee Adelu, and Ogunsanya of Oluniyonu Compound (Ofin), Lagos Island, and Ikorodu, respectively, and my children from Aguro Heritage in Ilaro. Thank you for your support during the course of this national assignment.
40. Long Live The Federal Republic Of Nigeria
41. Long Live The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro
42. Thanks for your attention. May God bless you all.

Dr. M. A. Akinde, FCA, FCTI

Rector, The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State, March 6, 2024