

**RECTOR'S MATRICULATION SPEECH, PRESENTED AT THE 2026 MATRICULATION CEREMONY HELD ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY, 2026 OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, ILARO (FPI) NOW FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ILARO (FUTI)**

**Protocols**

The Visitor to the Institution,

The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,**

The Honourable Minister of Education, **Dr. Morufu Tunji Alausa, CON,**

The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmed,

His Excellency the Governor of Ogun State, **His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON,**

The Executive Secretary NBTE, **Professor Idris Bugaje,**

**The Executive Secretary, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Prof. Is-haq Olarewaju Oloyede, CON,**

Distinguished Chairman and Members of the Governing Council,

The Principal Officers of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro Now Federal University of Technology, Ilaro,

Academic Board Members, which will soon be nomenclature Senate of the University

The Olu of Ilaro, Paramount Ruler of Yewaland and Chairman, Ogun State Council of Obas, **His**

**Royal Majesty, Oba ESV (Dr.) Kehinde Gbadewole, Asade Agunloye IV, MFR,**

Other Traditional Rulers, Chiefs

Distinguished Guests,

The Alumni,

Great Nigerian Students,

Esteemed Parents and Guardians,

Distinguished Members of the Community,

And above all, our Matriculants of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, now Federal University of

Technology, Ilaro,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am highly honoured as the new Acting Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro (FUTI) to welcome you to this important Matriculation Ceremony. Dear matriculants, today marks a significant milestone in your academic journey. You have been admitted into this esteemed Institution, and we are very excited to have you on board. As you step into the world of Polytechnic Education, in the best Polytechnic in Nigeria, you'll discover a vibrant community that fosters skills, innovation, creativity, and unleashes opportunities for self-reliance. Our mission is to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world of work.

The Polytechnic as of today has 47 National Diploma (ND) Programmes (13 new and 34 old) and 57 Higher National Diploma (HND) Programmes, totalling 104 Programmes. The 57 HND Programmes have 28 options, totalling 85 HND Programmes and 47 ND Programmes. 19 out of 85 HND Programmes (22.35%) are non-technical (School of Management Studies and School of Communication and Information Technology), whereas 77.65% (66) are technical Programmes in Engineering, Applied Sciences, Environmental Studies and Agriculture.

Thus, our Polytechnic offers more technical courses than non-technical courses, unlike many others. This accounts for the reason we have many innovations and won the best prizes in the last competition organised by the Federal Ministry of Education in Abuja in 2025. With delight, I am happy to inform you that the Institution is Matriculating 16,510 students across the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) full-time National Diploma, part-time National Diploma, HND full-time, HND part-time, ND and HND ODFel.

The table below summarises 2025/2026 Admission Statistics of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro (FPI) now Federal University of Technology, Ilaro (FUTI):

**Table 1: 2025/2026 Admission Statistics**

	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>APPLICANTS</b>	<b>ADMITTED</b>	<b>% OF ADMITTED ON APPLICATION</b>	<b>% OF APPLICANTS NOT ADMITTED</b>
1	ND FULL TIME (JAMB)	10717	<b>8500</b>	79	21
2	HND FULL TIME	5304	<b>5080</b>	96	4
3	ND PART-TIME (JAMB)	3590	<b>2740</b>	76	24
4	HND ODFEL	27	<b>27</b>	100	0
5	ND ODEFEL	60	<b>60</b>	100	0
6	HND WEEKEND	112	<b>103</b>	92	8
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19810</b>	<b>16510</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>17</b>

Source: Admission Office, Registry, February 23, 2026

The table reveals a total of 19,810 applicants across all types of admissions and 16,510 were admitted representing 83% and 17% was not admitted. These statistics further validates the Polytechnic as the best sought Polytechnic to metamorphose into the newly established Federal University of Technology, Ilaro (FUTI).

Today, we celebrate your achievements and welcome you to our community. Indeed, we are proud to share our values and standards, shaped by our pursuit of academic excellence and morality, which have earned us a top spot among Nigerian Polytechnics. However, as you start this journey, I encourage you to adopt our core values: morality, good behaviour, integrity, hard work, innovativeness, creativity, and excellence. These values have shaped us, and they'll guide you too. Focus on your studies, leverage our hands-on training, and acquire skills that'll make you self-sufficient.

Registration is the first step towards completing your admission process. Ensure that you complete all necessary registration formalities, obtain students' identification cards to become bonafide students of the Polytechnic. As you settle into campus life, take advantage of our state-of-the-art facilities, including our physical library, e-electronic sports facilities, and recreational areas.

We are proud to offer innovative programs that foster entrepreneurship and skill acquisition. Our Entrepreneurship Development and Skill Acquisition Centre (EDASAC) provides training in various vocational skills, while our Driving School offers certified training programs. Additionally, our Innovation Centre is equipped to nurture your programming, coding, drones manufacturing, and flying skills, preparing you for the demands of the future job market.

In today's digital world, being digitally literate is a must. Our E-learning platforms, including CISCO professional training, are here to boost your digital skills and make you job-ready. Make the most of these resources to take your learning to the next level. As a Federal Polytechnic Ilaro students, you're expected to uphold the highest standards of discipline and conduct.

Please familiarize yourself with our Students' Handbook, which outlines our rules and regulations. Avoid activities that could tarnish our reputation, which inter alia, include: Cheating in exams; Stealing; Drug abuse; Sexual misconduct; Disobedience to lawful instructions; Cultism; Cyber criminality; Making money by deceits(Yahoo or Yahoo+), Walking on lawns; Littering the campus; Writing graffiti or posting posters indiscriminately; Indecent dressing (e.g., sagging, revealing clothes, coloured hair). If you have grievances, please report them through the proper channels. Let us resolve issues peacefully, rather than take laws into our hands. In other words, if you see something that doesn't look right(cultism, drug, stealing, indecent dressing, sexual harassment, money or sex for marks), see it, sort it and report to the DSA or escalate to the Management.

Your health and wellbeing are our top priority. Our upgraded clinic offers 24/7 medical services, while our Guidance and Counselling Unit provides support for your academic and personal growth. Take advantage of our shuttle bus services, which operate at subsidized costs, and our Work-Study Scheme, designed to support indigent students. While we strive to provide on-campus accommodation for all students, we recognize that some of you may need to reside off-campus. I urge you to foster a positive relationship with our host community, respecting their rules and regulations, and contributing to the cordial atmosphere that has always existed between the Polytechnic and its host town. The Host Community is friendly, respect them as they are your local parents.

Evidently, the Polytechnic continues to witness phenomenal infrastructural and academic developments. There is good news for our students from the President, the Father of the nation. On Friday, February 13, 2026, the Institution received a total sum of Twenty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty Naira (₦27,534,620.00) as students' loan for 232 students through the Central Bank of Nigeria from NELFUND. If you have applied, please complete your registration, take your identity cards and other formalities to access your money through the DSA. On behalf of the students, thank you, Sir, His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for assisting the indigent Nigerian students.

As you are all aware, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, assented to the Bill of the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro (FUTI) and ensure that the Establishment Act 2024 Number 117, Volume 112 was officially gazetted on May 16, 2025. With delight and courtesy of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, Hon. Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa, Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad, I received my letter as the Acting Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, Polytechnic Librarian and the Bursar eventually received their letters as well to peacefully set the paths to grow the new University. Thus, on behalf of the Council, Principal Officers, Management, Academic Board, Staff, Unions and Students of the Polytechnic, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, you are indeed highly appreciated, Sir. Also, the entire community is exceedingly grateful to the Honourable Minister of Education, the Directors and Deputy Directors in charge of Universities and Polytechnics Education in Nigeria. More so, we are sincerely grateful to the initiator of the Bill, Senator representing Ogun West, Distinguished Senator (Aremo), Dr. Olamilekan Adeola Solomon, CON, FCA, FCTI, FFPI, the entire 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly Senate ably led by the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, GCON and House of Representative, ably led by Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, GCON.

Ladies and gentlemen, the entire academic community is grateful to the former Rector, Arc. Olarewaju Aluko, O. O. PhD, who collaborated wholeheartedly with the Aremo of Yewa Land to have the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro (FUTI). We are also not ungrateful to Late Dr. Raheem Adisa Oloyo, who worked tirelessly to ensure that FUTI is created by the Federal Government. We are also full of appreciation to all past Rectors, Deputy Rectors, Deans, and HODs of the Polytechnic Our gratitude also goes to the Principal Officers, Internal Council Members, Members of Academic Board, Management Committee, FUTI Committee Chairman, and members, Ceremonies' Committee and

Chairman, other committees and Chairmen, ASUP, SSANIP, NASU, Alumni, Students Union, Staff, Outsourced Staff and Students of the Institution. To all collaborators, JAMB, Prof. Isiaq Oloyede ably represented by Directors of the Board, TETFund, WAEC, NECO, NABTEB and others, we are indeed grateful. Without these great patriots and collaborators, the Institution would not have attained these great feats.

I sincerely express my profound appreciation to all parents and guardians that have played significant parts in ensuring that their wards and children consider us as their priority Institution. Your confidence in our academic excellence and outstanding legacies motivates us to improve on our service delivery and uphold our core values. We have the best set of staff and students that anyone can work with. Consequently, I acknowledge the efforts of all our staff, unions and students for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our institution's core values.

The town-industry-gown relationship of the Institution is top notched. So, our unalloyed gratitude goes to HRM, Oba (Dr.) ESV Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle MFR, (Asade Agunloye IV), the Olu of Ilaro, Chiefs, Transport Operators, Market men and women, Police, Mopol, DSS, Civil Defence, Amotekun Corps, NDLEAs, Road Safety, Nigerian Army Owode, other security architectures and the entire host community for their unflinching supports to the growth of the Polytechnic as well as ensuring peaceful coexistence among the staff, students and the indigenes.

Once again, to parents and guardians, we appreciate your trust in our institution to nurture your wards. We assure you that we'll provide a conducive environments for them to thrive. We encourage you to stay engaged with us and support their academic journey. To our new students, as you begin this exciting chapter, remember that your success is our priority. We are here to guide, mentor, and support you all the way. Let's work together to make our Institution a hub of academic excellence, innovation, and progress! Congratulations, and welcome to the greates family of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro (now Federal University of Technology Ilaro).

Great Nigerian Students!

Long Live Federal Polytechnic Ilaro now FUTI !!

Long Live Ogun State!!!

Long Live The Federal Republic of Nigeria !!!!

Thank you for listening



**Dr. M. A. Akinde, FCA, FCTI, ACS**

**February 25, 2026**