

DETERMINE NOT TO BE DETERRED

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR OLAYEMI AKINWUMI ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2021/2022 MATRICULATION CEREMONY HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2022

Protocols:

Excellences, Principal Officers, Provost, College of Health Sciences, Deans Directors, Heads of Departments/Units Matriculating students' Parents and Guardians, Gentlemen of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen

BE DETERMINED NOT TO BE DETERRED

Let me welcome you all on behalf of University Council, Senate, Management, Staff and students of our great University to the 10th matriculation ceremony of the Federal University Lokoja, FUL, and the 3rd under my administration as the 3rd substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University. The title of this address is BE DETERMINED NOT BE DETERRED. Matriculation ceremonies in universities mark the official admission of students into higher institutions of learning. This 10th matriculation is unique in more ways than one as it offers opportunities to those who are willing to take advantage of them to build bridges across ethnic, religious, and tribal barriers on their journey to greatness. It is also unique because you, the matriculants are coming into the University at a time when it is transiting from the state or condition of extreme academic confusion and agitation to a season of absolute tranquility whether real or perceived.

I am very optimistic that you will find fulfillment in studying your desired course at this university because we have a very passionate workforce waiting to help you through the process of time.

The Ceremony

This ceremony is an annual statutory academic ritual where the Vice-Chancellor of the University formally admits qualified candidates as bonafide members of the University community. The matriculation confers on you, fresh men and women, full membership of the Federal University Lokoja (FUL) community upon completion of all necessary admission requirements. It is therefore compulsory for every candidate seated here today, to go through the rite of matriculation and take the matriculation oath. It is imperative to note that the matriculation Oath will require your diligence, discipline, innovativeness, and integrity as you navigate what is perceived by some as challenging terrain of your academic pursuit here at FUL.

Some of you are supposed to have moved past this level but for the COVID-19 pandemic and the incessant industrial disharmony in our educational system. To redeem the lost time, you must work hard and work smart to ensure that you do not stay one day longer than you are statutorily supposed to stay in FUL. The University Management on its part is committed to your welfare and will do everything within its means to give you a most conducive learning environment and an exciting student experience.

2021/2022 Admission

In the 2021/2022 academic session, 6287 candidates applied to Federal University Lokoja, Kogi State to study various courses. Out of this number, only 3584 candidates were offered admission having successfully demonstrated readiness to study at the university by their performances at the mandatory Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), and the screening exercise conducted by the University in preparation for your sojourn in this University.

A summary of the admission statistics is as follows:

Total registered students	-	3584
Arts	-	597
Education	-	680
Management Sciences	-	334
Science	-	1376
Social Sciences	-	539
MB;BS	-	58
Male/female	-	1778 : 1759 (51% : 49%)
Arts/Humanities : Science	-	49% : 51%

Character and Learning

My dear matriculants, I congratulate you all once more on your successful admission into this great citadel of learning. As your Vice-Chancellor, it is my responsibility alongside other academic and administrative staff to make your experience here as exciting as we can. I know that at Federal University Lokoja we have some of the most excellent workforce you can find in any Federal Institution. I enjoin you to respect and trust them to help you navigate the twist and bends on your way to academic prominence. They will, as always, be available to teach, mentor, and guide you to excellence. Therefore, I urge you to uphold the tenets of the matriculation oath you are about to take and be guided by the rules and regulations contained in your student handbook.

As management, we had envisioned a university renowned for its capacity to provide all essential services that students yearn for. A University that will become a cynosure of all eyes. It is no gain-saying that our rising to the top of the league of both the G12 universities and 2nd among universities in the North Central geo-political zone in the 2021 NUC ranking is a product of God's grace and sheer dint of hard work, commitment, and sacrifices of Management and staff. Therefore, your excellent performance, cooperation, and quality representation after your four or six years here will be our greatest reward.

It is on this note that I advise you to avoid any act; cultism, examination malpractices, indecent dressing, cybercrime (yahoo-yahoo), and other fraudulent practices inimical to your academic progress.

My dear students, I desire that after your four to six years programme you will graduate with flying colors. But I am also aware that some of you may not graduate after four or six years, due to self-induced challenges and for some, circumstances of life, but others will rise from this university to become giants and rule their world. I therefore, urge you to choose the latter as you stay DETERMINED not to be DETERRED in the face of all daunting challenges knowing that nothing good comes easy.

Infrastructure

All infrastructural development projects initiated within the last 18 months of this administration are progressing according to schedule. Chief among them is the newly established federal university Lokoja College of Health Sciences, Adankolo which also has its first 100-level student in this matriculation hall today. I am very excited that this vision is today a reality. The 12 blocks of classrooms, the entrepreneurship center, the mini-stadium, and the expanded medical center, amongst many others projects taking place simultaneously to create an enabling environment for our students to thrive. In addition, efforts are in top gear to provide accommodation on campus and additional commuter buses to ease transportation challenges for all of you.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my dear matriculating students, the University in the last 2 years under my administration has recorded its modest achievements by working hard and firing from all cylinders in making significant contributions to society, maintaining an efficiently run, self-reliant, workable institution. I, therefore,

encourage you to take advantage of your membership of this community, a privilege other applicants do not have the fortune to enjoy and become the best of yourselves to the benefit of your family and your fatherland.

While congratulating you all, please have my best wishes for a successful academic sojourn in the University. Happy Matriculation!

Professor Olayemi Akinwumi Ph.D., AvHF, FHSN, FNAL
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University Lokoja