

**SPEECH BY PROF. NOAH YUSUF,**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR, AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY, ILORIN,  
**ON THE OCCASION OF**  
**FLAG-OFF OF GREEN CAMPUS INITIATIVE**  
**AT IGBAJA CAMPUS,**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 2023 (Safar 5, 1445 A.H.)**



**GREETINGS**

Authubillah Minnashaytan Rojim, Bismillahi Rahman Rahim.  
As Salaam Alaykum Waramatullah Wabarakatuhu.

**PROTOCOLS**

**INTRODUCTION**

I stand before you today with immense pride and a sense of responsibility as we gather here to mark a significant event in the history of our esteemed institution. The occasion that brings us together is not just a mere symbolic gesture, but a profound commitment towards a sustainable and greener future. Today, we gather to inaugurate the Tree Planting Programme, under the Green Campus Initiative, at our Igbaja Campus—a step forward in our journey towards environmental stewardship and consciousness.

As Vice-Chancellor of Al-Hikmah University, I am deeply honored to address this August gathering, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your presence here today. This ceremony signifies more than just planting trees; it symbolizes our collective determination to preserve and protect the environment for generations to come. It reflects our university's ethos of fostering holistic growth, not just within the walls of our classrooms, but also in the world around us.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN**

Our world is at a critical juncture. Climate change, deforestation, and the depletion of natural resources are stark realities that demand our immediate attention. The future of our planet depends on the actions we take today. Al-Hikmah University has always been at the forefront of academic excellence, and it is only fitting that we take the lead in environmental conservation as well. By initiating this Tree Planting Programme, we pledge our commitment to combatting climate change and ensuring a healthier ecosystem for ourselves and future generations.

Trees are more than just a source of oxygen; they are guardians of biodiversity, combatants against soil erosion, and providers of habitat for countless species. As we plant these saplings, we sow the seeds of hope, resilience, and sustainability. Just as our students are nurtured here to become responsible citizens and leaders, these trees will thrive and flourish, contributing to the health and vitality of our environment.

Our Igbaja Campus will serve as a living testament to our dedication. It will transform into a lush oasis of greenery—a sanctuary where both knowledge and nature coexist harmoniously. It is our hope that the students who walk these grounds will not only gain intellectual enlightenment but will also learn the value of preserving and respecting the natural world.

The success of this Tree Planting Programme hinges on the active participation of each member of the Al-Hikmah University community. Faculty members, staff, and students alike must embrace the responsibility of nurturing these saplings and ensuring their growth into mighty trees. Let us treat each tree as a living legacy—a testament to our commitment to sustainable living.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizing committee, whose tireless efforts have brought us to this point. I also thank our esteemed guests who have graced us with their presence today, sharing in our vision for a greener and more sustainable future.

Let us not underestimate the power of our collective actions. By planting these trees, we embark on a journey of transformation—a transformation that extends beyond our campus and into the world. As we inaugurate this Tree Planting Programme, let us remember that our actions today will echo through time, shaping the legacy we leave behind for the generations to come.

As a way of sustaining this noble programme, the University management has resolved that the exercise shall be a continuous one during every official event in our University, in particular visitations, Inaugural lectures, conferences, Matriculation and Convocations.

**APPRECIATION**

Finally, I would like to appreciate our Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Alh. Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, fSPSP, Jagunmolu and Asiwaju of Igbominaland, Arogundade of Lagos, Baba Oba of Offa; His Royal Highness, Oba Ahmed Awuni Arepo III, the Eles of Igbaja and Chairman, Ifelodun Council of Traditional Rulers; Chancellor, Alh. Sayyu Dantata; Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Alhaja Sekinat Yusuf; eminent members of BOT and Governing Council; Management, Deans, Head of Departments, staff and students of our Great University. I particularly appreciate the Dean and staff of the Faculty of Agriculture for hosting today's event. Jazakhumullahu Khayran.

**CONCLUSION**

As we begin to implement the Green Campus Initiative in our University, let us endeavour to make tree planting a regular exercise and habit such that at all available opportunity, we endeavour to PLANT A TREE AND MAKE OUR CAMPUS GREEN ALWAYS!

Thank you all, and may our efforts bear fruit as plentiful as the trees we plant today. Ameena Ya Allahu.  
As Salaam Alaykum Waramatullah Wabarakatuhu.

Prof. Noah Yusuf, fSPSP  
Vice-Chancellor, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.  
22nd August, 2023 (Safar 5, 1445 A.H.)



جامعة الحكمة، إلورن، نيجيريا  
**AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY,**  
ILORIN, NIGERIA  
The 1st Islamic Faith-based University in Nigeria  
Website: [www.alhikmahuniversity.edu.ng](http://www.alhikmahuniversity.edu.ng)

*Flag off of*  
**GREEN CAMPUS INITIATIVE AND**  
**FOUNDATION LAYING CEREMONY**  
**OF ABDULRAHEEM OLADIMEJI**  
**FRIN OUTPOST,**  
**IGBAJA CAMPUS**

**Date: Wednesday, 23rd August, 2023**

**Time: 10:00am**



His Excellency,  
**Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrazak,**  
The Executive Governor of Kwara State.  
**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**



**Alh. Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji,**  
OFR, FNAEAP, fSPSP  
Founder & Chairman, Board of Trustees,  
Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.  
**CHIEF HOST**



His Royal Highness  
**Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmed Awuni Babalola Arepo III,**  
Eles of Igbaja & Chairman,  
Ifelodun Council of Traditional Rulers  
**ROYAL GUEST**



**Alhaja Sekinat O. Yusuf**  
Chairman, Governing Council



**Prof. Noah Yusuf**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.  
**HOST**



**Prof. Y. B. Yaduma,**  
Director-General, Forestry Research  
Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) Ibadan  
**GUEST OF HONOUR**



# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

## AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA ZACHARIA BUBA YADUMA AT AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY GREEN CAMPUS INITIATIVE

ON 23RD AUGUST, 2023



1	Arrival of Guests	9:00 – 10:00 am
2	National Anthem	10:00 – 10:05 am
3	Al-Hikmah University Anthem	10:05 – 10:10 am
4	Opening Prayer – Chief Imam, Igbaja	10:10 – 10:15 am
5	Reading from the Holy Qur'an	10:15 – 10:20 am
6	Introduction of Dignitaries	10:20 – 10:30am
7	Welcome Address by the Vice-Chancellor, Al-Hikmah University - Prof. Noah Yusuf	10:30 – 10:40am
8.	Address by the Director General, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan - Prof. Z. B. Yaduma	10:40 – 10:50 am
9.	Address by the Executive Governor of Kwara State, His Excellency, Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrazak	10:50 – 11:10 am
10.	Goodwill messages:	11:10 – 11:20 am
a.	Founder & Chairman, Board of Trustee, Alhaji Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, fSPSP	
b.	Royal Host, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmed Awuni Babalola Arepo III, The Elese of Igbaja	
c.	Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Alhaja Sekinat Yusuf	
11.	Flag Off of Green Campus Initiative and Foundation Laying of AO-FRIN Outpost	11:20 – 11:50 am
12.	Presentation of Gifts	11:50 – 11:55 am
13.	Vote of thanks by the Registrar - Dr. Kazeem Adebayo Oladimeji	11:55 – 12:00 pm
14.	Closing prayer – Chief Imam, Al-Hikmah University	12:00 – 12:05 pm
15.	Al-Hikmah University Anthem	12:05 – 12:10 pm
16.	National Anthem	12:10 – 12:15 pm
17.	Group Photograph	12:15 – 12:20 pm
18.	Departure	

### All Protocols Observed

I want to thank the management of Al-Hikmah University for inviting me to this green campus flag off program. The initiative is the right step in the right direction considering the trend of environmental issues that have posed the great challenge to human society. It is therefore, important to modify our environmental culture and shift towards creating a sustainable solution. Environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change, global warming, biodiversity loss, depletion of nature's resources, flood, erosion and a host of degradation are ecological problems threatening the continuous survival of human society at local and global level. Hence, there is need to change developmental strategies towards sustainability. Public awareness creation among the present generation will enhance understanding of complex environmental issues and occurrences that contributes to the changes on nature.

The flag off of green campus initiative programme today shows the passion of the university community towards having a safe environment that is undergoing a continuous global change and where everyone has to cope with these changes. It is an action that is geared towards addressing climate change, desertification, drought and creating carbon credit to offset carbon emission. Green campus initiative programme is highly commendable because trees play a crucial role in the environment. Their presence, or absence, affects the way we feel, our overall health, it enhances the strength of broader ecosystem. Aside the immediate effect of arboretum on the general wellbeing of the staff and students of the University, it will offer opportunity for environmental education and research on forest tree conservation and diversity.

More so, the approaches to addressing environmental issues require inclusion of formal knowledge and skill development. The process of raising awareness among the Nigeria citizens on sustainable environmental management requires involvement of schools particularly University. Schools must play their role in building environmental literacy. The concept of environmental education requires competent knowledge and skills not only to identify environmental problem but to take active role in providing possible solutions. In respective of the different views about the content and suitable methods of achieving environmental education, the most important is that there is need for an organized initiative through active involvement of students and strategies that stipulate such experience.

The nature and value of Earths as life support systems have largely been ignored until the importance is evident due to loss and decline in the service of nature. For example, the disappearance of forest cover has revealed the critical role of forests in regulation and maintenance of water cycle, climate change mitigation, control of floods, droughts, erosive forces of wind and rain. It is a fact that the present escalation of negative impact of human activities on natural ecosystems has limited the benefits of ecosystem services. Land use changes associated with deforestation and de-vegetation has resulted to loss of biodiversity as well as disruption of carbon, nitrogen, and other biogeochemical cycles. Human society is suffering when ecosystems are threatened by environmental degradation. The essence of nature to mankind therefore justifies why we need to put together different sustainable environmental based initiative such as green initiative organized by Al-Hikmah University.

It is worthy to note that the green initiative will also offer environmental conservation public outreach to the members of the university community. It will complement national and global conservation effort to save endangered tree species as tree will be allowed to grow to the full natural form for both scientific observation and environmental sustainability satisfaction.

I will like to implore the University Management to keep on working together to ensure that we use our nature in such a way that it will not affect its availability for future generation. One of the necessary requirements to achieve nature's sustainability is to support all conservation efforts. Hence, the proposed initiative should be properly managed such that the intending objectives will be achieved.

Finally, I want to further applaud Al-Hikmah University for her desired interest in raising the banner of sustainable environment.

Thank you all for listening