



# PRESS BRIEFING ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF PROF. NOAH YUSUF AS THE FIFTH SUBSTANTIVE

VICE-CHANCELLOR OF AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY, ILORIN  
ON FRIDAY, 12TH JULY, 2024  
(MUHARRAM 6, 1446)



## Greetings

*Authubillahi Minna Shaytan Rojim, Bismillahi  
Rahaman Roheem.  
As Salam Alaekum Waramatulahi  
Wabarakatuhu.*

## Protocol

The University management, Deans, Head of Departments and other University staff, Gentlemen of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen.

## Introduction

I will start this interaction with the Press by first express my profound gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) and all the University Statutory organs in particular, the Founder and Chairman Board of Trustees, Alh. Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, fspsp, for giving me the privilege to serve as the fifth Vice-Chancellor of this great citadel

of learning- Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, the first Islamic Faith-based University in Nigeria.

As I reflect on my four years as Vice-Chancellor and look forward to a successful completion of my tenure in July, 2025, In Sha Allahu, I am filled with a sense of humility, immense gratitude to Almighty Allah (SWT) and feeling of accomplishments.

Through divine will, support and guidance, we have made significant strides in various aspects of the University, and I would like to highlight some of these as well as our challenges.

No doubt, my greatest challenge on assumption of duty in July, 2020 was how to navigate the turbulence of COVID-19 pandemic. I met on ground, adequate arrangements for virtual learning for all our students. I must appreciate the commitment of our academic staff who made enormous sacrifice leading to the huge success recorded, including the successful completion of 2020/2021 academic session. I must also acknowledge the cooperation and understanding of the parents, who provided their children with the mandatory tools to aid learning.

Over the years, we have made quite significant and worthy achievements, in line with the vision and mission of the University which are also in tandem with my philosophy of life- "Attainment of global best practices in all aspects of the University- adherence to the requirements of corporate governance in academic activities. staff welfare, student affairs and community relations".

Some of the areas where we have recorded modest successes are:

### A. Academic Matters

(As at today, the University runs a total number of 157 programmes, across seven Faculties, excluding Centres, as follows:

Undergraduate	- 52
Post-graduate Diploma	- 13
Masters	- 36
M.Phil/Ph.D	- 28
Ph.D	- 28

Accreditation of Various Programmes (2021-to date)

2021/2022 academic session - Twenty-three programmes- Full Accreditation

2022/2023 academic session- Eleven Programmes- Full Accreditation

2023/2024 - Eleven Programmes- Ten programmes - Full accreditation

### Professional Bodies Accreditation:

The following academic programmes secured Full accreditation of their respective professional bodies:

Geology (Nigerian Geological and mineral resources Association)

Nursing Science (Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria)

Medical Laboratory Science (Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria)

Mass Communication (Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria)

(iii) Establishment of University Advancement Centre attracting international collaborations and funding

(iv) Inauguration of Vice-Chancellor's In-house committee on Research grant

(v) Inauguration of the University Ranking Committee

(vi) Sustainance of Inaugural lectures with the 5th edition scheduled to be delivered on Wednesday, 31st July, 2024. The lecturer is Prof. Qaasim Badmaasi of the Department of Languages (Arabic Unit) of the University.

(vii) The University International School secured the approval of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) for its students to write both the senior and junior examinations.

(viii) Sponsorship of np Faculty of Agriculture Maiden Summit: Leveraging on the 13th Convocation Lecture delivered by His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on challenges of Food Security confronting the nation,

the University management organised an Agricultural Summit on 8th May, 2024, titled "Meeting the challenges of Food Insecurity in Nigeria: Agricultural Technologies to the Rescue". It was indeed an assemblage of experts in Agriculture and the takeaway from the summit is impressive. The current massive Agricultural investment in our Faculty of Agriculture, Igbaja campus is impressive. The Management visited the campus on Tuesday, 9th July, 2024 to inspect the Plantain and potatoe

plantations. So far, the University has expended about N40million on Agricultural production in our Igbaja campus.

## **B. Staff Welfare**

- (i) Robust staff development programme supporting academic and non academic staff in their postgraduate programmes, conference attendance and trainings. To date since the last anniversary on 13th July, 2023, about 20 academic staff across various Departments of the University have successfully completed their Ph.D programmes.
- (ii) As part of efforts to further improve staff welfare, management secured an approval from the Governing Council at its 58th Meeting on June 2024. With this, both academic and non-academic staff of the University would be granted approval to proceed on sabbatical leave after meeting stipulated requirements as from 2024/2025 academic session.
- (iii) Related to the above is the commencement of online promotion for both academic and non academic staff as from the current promotion exercise. This is expected to ease the burden of cost of paper work and advance the University towards becoming a fully digital-compliant institution.

## **C. Student welfare and engagements**

Student welfare was also given deserved attention with regular engagement with Student representatives and provision of indoor sport facilities as well as maintenance of existing sporting facilities across the three campuses.

## **D. Infrastructural Development**

- (i) Enhancement of campus infrastructure, including the construction of new buildings and facilities, which include:
- (ii) Senator Kashim Shetima Nursing Science Complex
- (iii) Moot Court of the Faculty of Law.

## **E. Collaboration and Partnership**

During the period under review, we successfully established collaboration with other institutions. For instance, our engagement with the Consortium of Kwara State Universities (KU8) resulted in the choice of Al-Hikmah University to host the 2nd KU8 International Conference between 6th and 9th August, 2024. Further, the University is currently in discussion with the Nigeria Police that will lead into collaboration between the two institutions. Hopefully, the Centre for Peace and Security Studies of the University would be fully engaged on training programmes at the Nigeria Police Intelligence Training College, Share, as soon it is commissioned. In addition, the University's partnership with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in Abuja is being strengthened.

## **F. Postgraduate School Development**

The postgraduate School has experienced appreciable transformation, especially in the last one year. In terms of enrolment, postgraduate students population rose from less than 150 in 2021 to over 2000 in 2024. The postgraduate school structure and management has equally experienced an improvement with added capacity to provide quality and effective service to the students.

## **G. Proposed Medical Programme**

I am happy to inform distinguished members of the Press that the Governing Council of the University has given approval for the commencement of MBBS programme as from 2024/2025 academic session, In sha a Allahu. Arrangements are ongoing for the resource visitation by the National Universities Commission (NUC), preceding the full commencement of the programme. We are profoundly grateful to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kwara State,, Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, CON, for the approval of Sobi Specialist Hospital for the training of our Medical students.

## **H. Best Tertiary Institution Award**

In recognition of our modest efforts, the Kwara Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KWACCIMA) gave an Award to the University as the Best Overall Private University in Kwara State on 5th July, 2024.

## **I. 20th Anniversary Celebration and 14th Convocation Ceremony**

Gentlemen of the Press, I am glad to inform you that the 20th Anniversary of the University comes up in January, 2025. Alhamdulillah Robil Al- Ameen. The Anniversary event shall be a one-month event beginning from December, 2024 and would roundup on 8th January, 2025, with the 14th Convocation Ceremony, In Sha Allahu.

We seek for your prayers towards a successful Anniversary programme.

## **Challenges**

The University is desirous to solve the problem of rising cost of energy as a result of categorization of the University into "Band A" and which has resulted to an astronomical increase in electricity bill from N8Million to N25million, N29million and N18million in the past three months, respectively. To solve the above problem, the University, through Council approval, has embraced the idea of energy mix which will soon lead to the installation of Solar power gadgets in our campuses,, which is to be implemented in phases. Further, staff and students have been sensitized on responsible power usage on our campuses. Another challenge is the issue of providing accommodation to all our students, which is the ultimate goal of the University. With the current aggressive hostel construction at Atere Campus, we are hopeful that this ideal of full hostel accommodation for our students shall be realised.

## **Future Plan and Vision**

Infrastructural Development is key to placing the University on a sound footing. Therefore, our plan is to

- (i) complete the Faculty of Management Sciences building which is currently at 70 percent completion stage.
- (ii) Furthermore, the University will hasten the completion of Faculty of Law complex to enable us complete movement of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to Atere main campus. Thus, Adeta campus will be home to the proposed College of Medicine and Faculty of Applied and Natural Sciences.

- (iii) In Sha Allahu, by this time next year when we shall be at this same venue for my valedictory Press briefing, our dream is to leave behind a University with quality and dedicated staff, disciplined and morally-inclined students, monumental infrastructural development, appreciable ranking profile and opportunities for future development.

## **Appreciation**

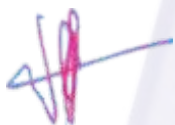
I am grateful to the Founder and Chairman Board of Trustees, Alh. Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, fspsp, the Chancellor, Alh. Sayyu Dantata, Pro-Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Alhaja Sekinat O. Yusuf for their support, counsel and prayers.

I equally appreciate the Management, Senate and the entire University community for the wonderful support, cooperation and goodwill.

To further achieve our aims and objectives, I wish to solicit for continued cooperation of the media as our partners in progress.

We do appreciate your past support, suggestions and encouragement at all time. Despite our challenges, we shall remain focused and committed to our mission and values. I am proud of Al-Hikmah University community's resilience and creativity. As we move forward, we will continue to focus on strategic innovations, an all-inclusive administration and academic excellence.

Thankyou.



**Prof. Noah Yusuf**

Vice-Chancellor

Friday, 12th July, 2024

(Muharram 6, 1446 AH)