



**ADDRESS BY THE RECTOR, DR. MUKAIL AREMU AKINDE, FCA, FCTI,
AT THE 22ND CONVOCATION CEREMONY AND 45TH FOUNDER'S DAY
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC ILARO ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Protocols.

1. Distinguished guests, esteemed parents, graduates, and members of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro community, it is my honour to welcome you all to the 22nd Convocation Ceremony of this great institution. I am remarkably delighted to welcome the Visitor to the Polytechnic, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for the unwavering and continued support to the Polytechnic and TVET institutions in general. Also, I am grateful to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun, MFR. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Morufu Olatunji Alausa, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad, Hon. Minister of State for Education representing the visitor to the Polytechnic. The Visitor is ably represented by a Director, the Director of Polytechnic Education and Allied Institutions, Dr. Ejeh Usman. The skill but not degree aficionado, Executive Secretary of the NBTE, Prof. Idris Bugaje, ably represented by NBTE Southwest Zonal Director, Mr. Ayo Aroge. Ladies and gentlemen, you are welcome to the Polytechnic of first choice.
2. My Chairman, the 12th Governing Council of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro Sir, a former Head of Service in Yobe State, the man who on his arrival to the First Council Meeting showed uncommon magnanimity by donating ₦500,000.00 to the Medical Centre to buy drugs for the students and ₦500,000.00 each to the Mosque and Church on campus, an administrator per excellence, Alhaji Garba Bilal, The Federal Ministry of Education Representative, Mrs. Ahmadu Iyabo and other members of the Most Distinguished Council, Principal Officers of the Polytechnic, Academic Board Members, Polytechnic Management Committee, Chairman Committee of



Federal Rectors, Chairman and Secretary of COHEADS, all Rectors of Polytechnics in Nigeria who are here, the Staff Unions, Staff, Students' Union Leaderships, students and graduands, I congratulate you on this auspicious occasion of 45th Founder's Day Anniversary and 22nd Convocation Ceremony of the Institution.

3. Using the Paramount Ruler, HRM, Oba Dr. (ESV) Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Asade Agunloye IV, Olofin Adimula of Ado-Odo Kingdom, HRM, Oba Idris Olusola Adebawale – Osolo and Prof. Abdur Kabir Oba Lalenge, Ekun II, Arole Iganmode Olota of Ota as a point of contact to every Alaiyeluwas at this occasion, I say a thunderous Kabiyesi; I doff my cap, Sir.
4. With delight, I salute the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriation, Sen. Dr. (Aremo) Olamilekan Adeola Solomon (YAYI), CON, FCA, FCTI, FFPI, who is a fellow of our institution and foremost development partner in the progress so far recorded in the Polytechnic. I am not ungrateful for the support received from Hon. Ishaq Abiodun Akinlade, Chairman of the House of Representative Committee on Aviation and Aerospace Development; Hon. Gboyega Nasir Isiaka (GNI), Chairman of the House of Representative Committee on Students' Loan, and Hon. Akinosi Olatunji Akanni, respectively.
5. With highest regards, the iconic Hon. Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Festus Egwarewa Adeniyi Keyamo, SAN, CON, FCIArb (UK), you are welcome back home to your maternal town, Agunloye Ruling House, Ilaro, the town which you started, Sir. The entire people of Ilaro, Yewa and Awori are enthusiastic about your humility in accepting our Fellowship. We welcome you with your entourage, Sir. My Classmate in ND and HND of the Accountancy Department of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro from 1989-1994, an Awardee, Mr. Abiodun Akanbi Durosini FCA, FICA, CCO, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Zenith Bank Plc, an illustrious



Alumnus from the UK, a software expert, Mr. Alaba Jacob Afolabi, CIA, HND, and other classmates, Alumni National President, Mr. Tade Ademola, Rasheed Adigun, Banjo Onasanya, and others, thank you for always providing your resources to develop the institution.

6. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Council, Principal Officers, Management, Staff, Students, Alayeluwas, and the entire Yewas and Aworis at home and in the diaspora, triumphantly, with the highest level of humility, I welcome the Inspector General of Police, Olukayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD NPM, fspsp, who would be delivering the topical convocation lecture on the theme 'Renewed Hope Agenda, Brain Drain and Japa Syndrome: The Way Forward'. My Lord Spiritual and Temporal, the list is endless; I welcome other dignitaries, parents, and graduands, and thank you profoundly for gracing this occasion despite your busy schedules. Your presence is deeply appreciated.
7. It is my singular honour to profoundly appreciate my boss, benefactor, Arc. Aluko, Olusegun Olanrewaju PhD, the immediate past Rector, who would soon be retiring gloriously on May 13, 2025. All past Rectors, Dr. Tayo Ogunbadejo, Prof. Olateru, Olagbegi, Dr. Saibu Adebayo Makanjuola, Late Dr. Raheem Adisa Oloyo, the past Deputy Rectors, Late Eniojunkan, Pa. Akinola, Engr. A. O. Osore, Tpl. Francis Babalola, Engr. I.K. Ogunfayo, the former Registrars, Polytechnic Librarians, Bursars, Deans, HODs, and other past senior Management of the Polytechnic for their legacies, which are our guiding principles into notching new feats, and in fact, it is their suggestions and advice that keep spurring us to do more.
8. Ladies and Gentlemen, The Polytechnic is blessed with the best staff anyone can work with, we are also fortunate to have the best, well-dressed, morally, practically, and academically sound students. Evidently as can be seeing in myself, Mr. Abiodun Akanbi Durosinmi, Mr. Alaba Jacob Afolabi and the Alumni President, Mr. Tade Ademola, etc. I am proud to say we are all



alumni of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro. Consequently, I wholeheartedly appreciate all members of staff, under the auspices of ASUP, SSANIP, and NASU, for always supporting our administration through their hard work and resourcefulness. The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro's Students Union Leaderships and the entire Congress of students are equally appreciated for their cooperation, teachability, and willingness to be partners in our development project, without the support of these critical stakeholders, the feats notched by the Institution in the last two years would not have been possible.

9. The Federal Government's unwavering commitment to the Renewed Hope Agenda, exemplified by its deliberate and genuine interventions in the education sector, has been instrumental to the remarkable progress recorded in the Polytechnic sector. I must respectfully once again thank the Visitor to the Polytechnic, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, ably represented by a very Senior Director of Polytechnics and Allied Institutions, Dr. Ejeh Usman and the Team sent by the Hon. Minister of Education for introducing Students' Loan, which many of our students benefited from and exiting Federal Polytechnics from the controversial Integrated Personnel and Payroll Management System (IPPIS).
10. Ladies and gentlemen, at the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro and every Tertiary Institution generally, in the last one year, we have benefited immensely from this Renewed Hope mantra. Specifically, His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, is retooling and rejigging the Polytechnics and other TVET Institutions. This is indeed remarkably exceptional. In our Polytechnic under the leadership of the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, we have recorded the following achievements:
 - Construction of the Schools of Agriculture and the School of Art & Design, Printing Laboratories, new ICT 300 seaters facility, laboratories, Satellite Television, road rehabilitation, new School of Management



Studies, new School of Agriculture, New Tractors, Agric Implements, State of the Heart Equipment in Cement Engineering Technology and other Engineering, Pure and applied Sciences.

- Unveiling of the Electric Tricycle using CNG, Solar Panel and Electricity.
- Other inventions currently being patented, whose mass production industries are welcome to invest in, are the incubator & hatcher, Kokoro Processing Machine, Shredding Machine, Palm-oil Digester, Juice Extractor, Vulcanizing Machine
- Approval of twenty-four new programmes
- Enhancement of staff welfare via timely promotions, allowances increment
- Deployment of disruptive technologies, such as automating examination seating arrangements, using Python code.
- Launching biometric attendance systems for staff and students manufactured in FPI as a quality control measure.
- Internal production of identity cards for students and staff.
- Initiation of Work-Study Scheme to support financially challenged but determined students.
- Enhanced our Best Graduating Students Awards and introduced awards for the Best Academic Staff, Best Researcher, Best Non-Teaching Staff, and Best Outsourced Staff.
- Secured NRF grants, totalling over ₦53 million, and 66 IBR grants totalling ₦115,030,574.00.
- Achieved notable rankings, including being named the best polytechnic in Nigeria by Webometrics and the most sought-after Polytechnics in Nigeria.
- Provided a window of institutional sponsorship for publications in Scopus and Web of Science indexed journals.



- FPI students and their lecturers Assembled 25kg Payload Agric Drones, used to support in fumigating yearly 2000 hectares at OLAM Farms, Ruuibi Village, Nasarawa. All our HND 2 Engineering and Applied Science students can fly and maintain drones.
- At the National Exhibition on Creativity Innovation in Polytechnics, Monotechnic and Innovation Enterprise Institutions at the Public Service Institute of Nigeria, Kubwa, Abuja, on February 11, 2025, the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro came first. We have fabricated a lot of machines and equipment in FPI; if taken to the industry, it will lessen the rate of importation and drive the industrialization of our dear country.
- Through Most Distinguished Senator, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriation, Sen. Dr. (Aremo) Olamilekan Adeola Solomon ((YAYI) CON FCA FCTI FFPI, NITDA has contracted Kaffog Industrial Limited to give the Polytechnic Digital Learning Centre to facilitate digital services, e-learning, computers, internet connectivity, a Local Area Network, Smarts Board, a solar-Powered Inverter and a Generator etcetera.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to announce to you that a total number of 7,190 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 2023/2024 graduating class, the total number of male graduates produced from the HND programme is 1,121, while the total number of female graduates produced from the same programme is 1,498. Altogether, a total number of 148 students made distinction grade in the HND programme, with the best student, Moses Kehinde Salome, a female student of the Department of Office Technology Management, graduating with a 3.90 CGPA. In addition, 2180 male students successfully graduated from the institution's ND programme, while a total of 2,397 female students graduated from the same programme. Altogether, a total number of 205 students made



distinction grade in the ND programme, with the best student, Onyemachi Abigail Ezinne, a female student of the Department of Science Laboratory Technology, graduating with a 3.93 CGPA.

12. My dear wonderful graduands, work hard, do not commit crimes; this country is full of opportunities; no country is better than your country of birth. We have to support the President to fix the country to make it better. We are on the high table today because we have worked so hard, disciplined and be focused. My beloved brother IGP, Hon. Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Abiodun Durosini, CFO Zenith Bank Plc., Mr. Alaba Jacob, Mr. Tade Ademola (Alumni President), Banjo Onasanya FCA, Head Budget and Financial Analysis NNPC, and Rasheed Adigun are where they are today because of the virtues highlighted. You will make it and be better than us but work hard and be diligent.

"Work is the antidote to poverty.

Be diligent, my friend.

It is through work that we attain greatness...."

(Ise Loogun Ise, Mura Si Ise Ore Mi, Ise La Fi Ndeni Giga)

13. I must appreciate The Inspector General of Police, Olukayode Adeolu Egbetokun, PhD for agreeing to deliver this year's convocation lecture- 'Renewed Hope Agenda, Brain Drain and Japa Syndrome: The Way Forward'. The challenges besetting our nation, and supposedly driving the Japa frenzy, notwithstanding, opportunities exist for commercially viable solutions. However, only those prepared and empowered with the type of technical training we are delivering here at our great institution can afford to leverage these opportunities towards becoming self-sufficient and ultimately obviating the impulsive pandering to the seeming expediency of economic migration. While we shall continue to play our part as an institution in the quest to get young people to equitably access the vistas of the Renewed Hope Agenda, parents also have a critical role to play in



socialising their wards into the culture of hard work, excellence, and delayed gratification. Parenting should now morph into an intentional art of craving to foster a capable, self-sufficient, diligent and well-behaved next generation that will ultimately turn out to become pride to their families, institutions, communities, and country.

14. Dear graduands, I congratulate you on your success. Be rest assured that the knowledge and skills you have acquired here have fully equipped you to be kings in your own country, while also making it seamless for you to be able to compete anywhere in the world and prove those who discriminate against products of the Polytechnic wrong. Products of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, like Islamiyat Ojelade, a distinction graduate of our Science Laboratory Technology department, who got direct PhD scholarship offers into 7 universities in the United States of America, have often disrupted the planks of the unfair discrimination of Polytechnic products and instantiated our culture of excellence and barriers breaking. As you go out into the world, keep your heads high, and remember to uphold the values of integrity, diligence, and excellence as you, our greatest plenipotentiaries, represent this institution in your future endeavours. Dear graduands, go to the world and fly where the Eagles dare!
15. I must acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the 3 nominees who will receive our highest fellowship honour today. When it comes to Barrister Festus Egwarewa Adeniyi Keyamo, SAN, FCI Arb (UK), the Honourable Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, the fellowship is our own way of proudly identifying with him as a son of the soil and appreciating his immense contribution to the deepening of democratic ideals and remarkable championing of good governance and justice in Nigeria. Besides, he has successfully transformed all International and Local Airports and return major International Flights such as Emirates, British Air, Delta Air, KLM, Lufthansa, and Virgin among other International Airlines which now fly



Nigeria air space. For Mr. Abiodun Durosinmi, FCA, the Chief Financial Officer, Zenith Bank PLC, and Mr. Alaba Afolabi, CIA, HND, based in the United Kingdom, it is about proudly identifying with the phenomenal feats and successes of our alumni in their different walks of life. It is about appreciating the successes recorded in your workplace in Zenith Bank Plc, and United Kingdom. Your steadfastness and support to us as an institution is a symbolic significance as the paragons of the values we instill in our students.

16. Distinguished guests, esteemed faculty members, proud parents, and graduating students, it goes without saying that our granting of fellowship awards to our sterling, capable, and most outstanding nominees is also tantamount to their investiture into life-long and sustainable development partnership with our institution.
17. While celebrating the achievements and contributions of our great awardees, Festus Egwarewa Adeniyi Keyamo, SAN, Mr. Abiodun Durosinmi, and Mr. Alaba Afolabi, I crave their continuous support as partners in our developmental projects, and that of the Federal Government, alumni groups, and other stakeholders to address our pressing needs. Resources and facilities such as additional auditoriums, hostels, equipment, laboratories, buses (18 passengers), Agricultural Implements, Hilux for field trip, coaster and luxurious buses are vital for improving our services and prepare our students for the demands of the modern world. May God continue to bless you as you prioritise our needs in your endowment plans.
18. At this juncture, I am pleased to announce that our Polytechnic has introduced a Crime Management Programme, with a curriculum focused on security science and management. We would be honoured if the Inspector General of Police would lend his support to this nascent programme. Specifically, we respectfully request that the Inspector General of Police take a photograph with the Head of the Department of Crime Management. This



photo will be prominently displayed in the department and utilized as a valuable resource for accreditation purposes. Please, Sir, help us to drive the development of the Department and the Polytechnic in general using your connection.

19. Again, I extend my gratitude to our management team, staff, students, security personnel, spiritual leaders, and the Ilaro community, headed by HRM, Oba (Dr.) ESV Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle MFR, (Asade Agunloye IV) the Olu of Ilaro and Paramount Ruler of Yewa Land, the Olofin Adimula Odua of Ado-Odo Kingdom, Olota of Ota, Ekun II, Arole Iganmode and all the Obas, the traditional Chiefs, for their unflinching support. We can't thank enough His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun, MFR, Distinguished Senator Olamilekan Adeola (YAYI), CON, for their remarkable interventions that are geared at uplifting our Polytechnic, transforming the entire landscape of our immediate regional footprints, and ultimately improving their visibility index. Together, we have created indelible stories and sustained the legacies of this great institution. With your continued collaboration, we will achieve even greater heights.
20. Let me once again appreciate the Hon. Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development. Sir, I must inform you that the Polytechnic is supporting OLAP Farm in Kogi to fumigate hectares of land, and we train our students on how to fly drones. Sir, we need your assistance to obtain licenses to fly these drones. I am also requesting that you support the Polytechnic to attract projects, world class equipment and other infrastructural development of 898 hectares of land of the Polytechnic. To other awardees, please invest in the development of the Polytechnic.
21. Also, I appreciate members of staff, students, and the Ilaro community for their commitment, support, and cooperation. Thank you for remaining committed to our core values. May God bless you all.



22. Finally, I want to thank my dearest wife, my partner and mascot TPL Akinde, A. S. Nee Adelu and Ogunsanya of Olaniyonu Compound (Ofin), Lagos Island and Ikorodu respectively and my children from Aguro Heritage in Ilaro, I am always on the road, thank you for supporting in the course of this national assignment.
23. Thank you, and may God bless you all.