

Academics Must be Encouraged to Obtain PhDs

— *President Buhari at UniAbuja Convocation*

The Visitor, University of Abuja, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, has said that his government “had directed that all universities should enhance quality of the teaching staff and all academics must be encouraged to obtain their Doctoral Degrees (Ph.Ds) within a short time for improved productivity.”

He said at the 22nd convocation ceremony of the University of Abuja held last Saturday, that government had also “directed that facilities available for capacity building at both Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Needs Assessment Presidential Revitalization Fund for public universities should be judiciously utilized for that purpose.”

In the Visitor’s address read on his behalf by the Deputy Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission



His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria

(NUC), Professor Chiedu Felix Mafiana, President Buhari said, “I would like to reiterate my earlier call for the need for quality teaching and research in our universities as this affects the

quality of graduates from our universities.”

He said Nigerian universities should ensure that the quality of the graduates produced compared

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L-R: Pro-Chancellor, Alh. Sani Maikudi, Representative of the Visitor and DES, / NUC, Prof. Chiedu F. Mafiana, and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Micheal Adikwu

with products of other universities in other parts of the world.

President Buhari further said that, research should be a priority in our universities, where education had great influence in a quality research, adding that this could foster the emergence of a knowledge-driven society as foundation for national development.

The President said his administration recognized the need to keep with the trend in the global village where interdependency and highly skilled professionals drive the economy.

He mentioned that “government is determined to improve access and quality in our educational system as far as our resource capacity and capability can support.”

The Visitor assured that infrastructure, teacher development, curriculum relevance, funding and planning

would continue to receive a boost so as to facilitate changes in the social, economic, political and technological sectors.

In order to achieve better result, he said, government devoted attention to technical and vocational education training to impart the necessary skills to our youth in a bid to provide the requisite competent and self-reliant personnel that could sustain the nation’s economic activities for the required socio-

economic transformation.

The President observed that “Government alone cannot meet the needs of higher education in Nigeria. We are therefore encouraging the private sector to invest more in research and development partnership with the universities.”

To achieve maximum benefits, government on its part planned to continue to take steps to upgrade infrastructure, teaching materials and research equipment in the universities and expects the universities to complement the efforts by relentlessly exploring opportunities to attract private sector cooperation and investments, he said.

President Muhammadu Buhari, recognized the role of universities in grooming the youth, stating that as custodians of these students, the university must not abuse the trust of the society by disorienting the students for selfish interests. He identified some of the vices that universities must steer students away from, to include cultism,



Cross Section of Vice Chancellor





Ph.D Graduands

examination malpractice and drugs so that the students should follow the noble path of patriotism and commitment to nation building.

The President acknowledged the level of unemployment in the country, and disclosed that his Administration decided to implement several programmes and initiatives geared towards reducing unemployment rate and thereby enhancing productivity.

He mentioned such initiatives as: N-Power programme which he said provided succour for two years to unemployed graduates until they secured permanent gainful employment, disclosing that a total of 200,000 youths were employed at its commencement over a year ago. "Another batch of about 300,000 has just been selected for the programme."

According to President Buhari, other initiatives been promoted

by government were in Agriculture and small-scale business supported by a government guaranteed loan scheme.

He congratulated the recipients of honorary degrees and drew their attention that in accepting this recognition, the awardees had tacitly agreed to "have answered the call to higher duty in the service of UNIABUJA as well as our fatherland."

He therefore urged them to further strengthened their

resolve and contribution towards the progress of the university and the country.

The Visitor congratulated the graduands, their parents, guardians and well wishers who graced the auspicious occasion.

He expressed happiness that the atmosphere of peace and tranquility had pervaded the campus, allowing for effective teaching and learning-which he said, was commendable and attributed it to the governing council, Senate, Management and indeed, all staff and students of this institution.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Professor Michael U. Adikwu, stated that the University graduated its first set of medical students in December last year was a sign that the institution's effort to restore academic culture started paying off.

The Vice-Chancellor informed the gathering that there were many ongoing projects, such as the main office of the Centre for the Distance Learning and Continuous Education, the



Cross section of graduands





Royal Fathers

Postgraduate School and the ICT centers. Therefore, he also appealed to government to help in completing some major physical development projects necessary for the development of the university.

While congratulating the graduands, the Vice-Chancellor urged them to be worthy ambassadors of the university. The Vice Chancellor said the University graduated 16 first class honours out of a total of 7,148 made up of 6,902 Undergraduates and 242 Postgraduate students for the

2016/2017 academic session.

Prof. Adikwu appreciated the Governing Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the university of Abuja for going the extra mile in ensuring that guests were treated honourably.

The highpoint of the occasion was the award of honorary Doctorate degrees to three eminent Nigerians for their contribution to the university and Nigeria's development. They were Dr. Bala Usman, posthumous Doctor of Letters

Honoris Causa, Pastor, William F. Kumuyi, General overseer, Deeper Life Christian Ministry, Worldwide, Honorary Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa and Alhaji Aliyu Dikko, a Businessman and Philanthropist, Honorary Doctor of Arts, Honoris Causa.

In a message read on his behalf, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Alhaji Kabir Maikudi, said that despite the hiccups experienced by some of its new programmes, he was happy to report that all programmes were on course and that the university graduated its first set of medical doctors in December last year.

The Pro-Chancellor also requested the assistance of the Visitor to consider a special grant to the University of Abuja to enable the university to complete all the on-going projects and accelerate its overall development.

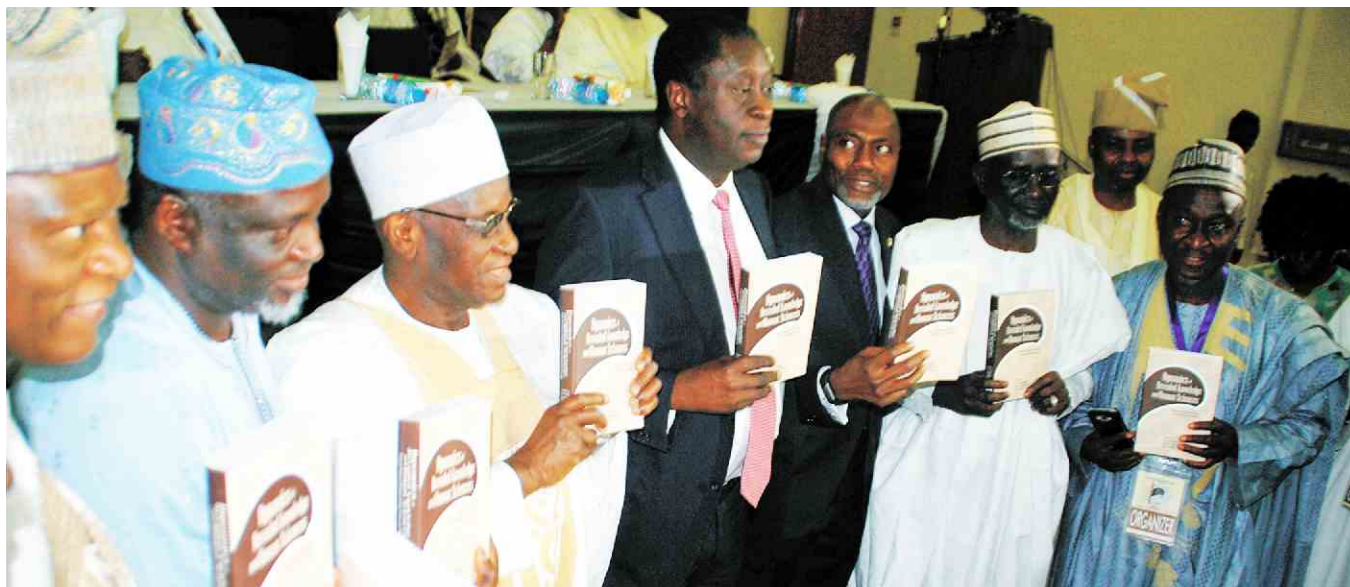


L-R: Prof. Adikwu, Mrs. Bala Usman, Alh. Maikudi, Prof. Mafiana, Pastor Kumuyi, Alh. Dikko and Mrs. Swarta in a group photograph with other Management of the varsity





Oloyede an Academic Genius, Administrative Guru... ...a book of essays presented in his honour



L-R: The presenter of the Book, Dr Wale Babalakin (4th right) Prof. Na'Allah, Prof. Oloyede, Justice Belgore, Yusuf Ali, Mal. Ibrahim Shekarau and Prof. Imam holding a copy of the book during the presentation

The Registrar, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Is-haq Oloyede has been described as an academic genius and administrative guru who dominated his world with well-reasoned arguments and visionary ideas.

In a citation on him at the Presentation of Essays in his honour titled “Dynamics of Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences” Edited by three of his Students, Professor Oloyede was also described “as a shrewd judge of men and matters, a man who accepts no half measures and sets records with his sterling qualities and impeccable credentials”.

The Citation also described Prof. Oloyede as a man of

unconquerable will with a relentless questing spirit and a spartan commitment to duty, easy and amiable mien, “He has remained a raving phenomenon to friend, and foe alike with honesty, simplicity, humility, loyalty, generosity and single-minded believe in service of Allah and humanity.”

According to the citation Prof. Oloyede did not only take the University of Ilorin to its apogee, but also electrified the global university system with his sterling leadership qualities and high-octance administrative acumen.

“No other Nigerian Vice-Chancellor has achieved being Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellor (CVC)/ Association of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU),

President of the Association of African Universities (AAU), Board Member of both the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and International Association of Universities (IAU) within a tenure of five years, apart from being the initiator of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU) through the Ilorin Declaration”.

It further said that as a prolific author and astute academic, his hundreds of research works have appeared in scores of several nation and international journals. Prof. Oloyede has written, co-written and co-edited books and papers published in many outlet in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, USA, among others. He has presented





L-R: Prof. Age Suleiman, Dr. Wale Babalakin, Justice, Alfa Belgore, H.E. Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar (III), JAMB Registrar, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede and former Minister of Education, Mal. Ibrahim Shekarau at the book presentation

academic papers in conferences all over Nigeria and across the world.

The Spiritual Father of the occasion Sultan of Sokoto and President General of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, mni extolled the values of Professor Is-haq Oloyede which was said included Honesty, Loyalty, dedication and steadfastness and respect for all, stating that "no matter your religion or tribe"

The Sultan said that people should not treat positions as their personal properties.

He advised Journalists to stop criminalizing a whole tribe or any religion but to call criminal by their names as criminals.

He urged Nigerians to always asked Questions and seek advice where they do not know in order not to be misled by unscrupulous elements.

Chairman of the occasion, Hon.

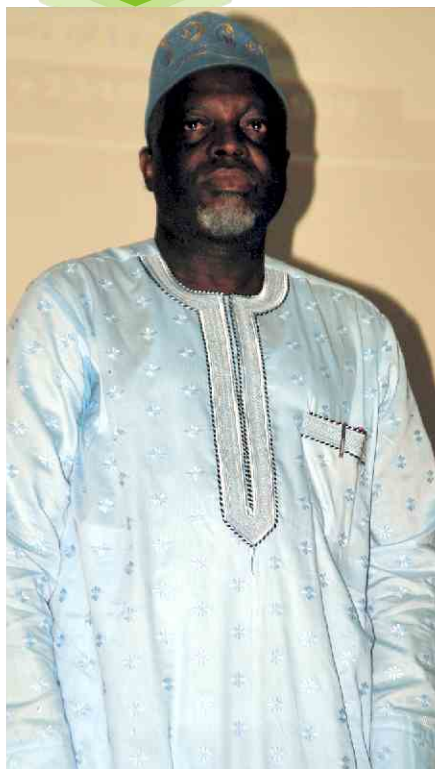
Justice S. M. A. Belgore, GCON, Former Chief Justice of the Federation said he had known Professor Oloyede "as polite, obedient and God Fearing since childhood. He also described him as a talented scholar who believes that whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well and on time".

Book presenter, Dr. Wale Babalakin, SAN, OFR, who also the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of university of Lagos described Professor Oloyede as humble,



Representative of ES NUC, Director of Corporate Communications, Ibrahim Usman Yakasai, delivering his speech





Prof. Is-haq Oloyede
JAMB Registrar

selfless and dedicated scholar whose outstanding academic work at university of Ilorin was exemplary. He purchased two copies of the book each for the 40 Federal Universities and some personal copies at Five million naira.

Representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Permanent Secretary, General Services of the Federation, Mr. Olusegun A. Adekunle, said Professor Is-haq Oloyede had been an example to many leaders whose qualities need to be emulated. Mr. Adekunle reiterated that “whatever he is doing in JAMB makes the government proud”.

Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor, Abubakar A. Rasheed, mni, MFR, FNAL purchased 300 copies for all the Federal, State and Private universities.

Represented by Director, Corporate Communications, Alhaji Ibrahim Yakasai, the NUC Scribe extended goodwill on behalf of the entire Nigerian Universities System.

The chief host of the occasion and the Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Professor, Sulaiman A.

Abdulkareem described the celebrant, as the hiding secret behind the development of University of Ilorin. He said the university community still recognised his immense contributions and remained grateful for setting the pace that enabled his predecessors to follow.

Other speakers at the event were former Governor of Kano State and long term friend of the honoree from their Muslim Student Society (MSS) days, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said, Professor Is-haq Olarewaju Oloyede was blessed and gifted by Allah. He described him as a man who believed in justice for all and concur with all that was said about the celebrant.

He said “Professor Oloyede’s earthly affairs are taken care of by Allah because he is more concerned with taking care of his hereafter”.

Professor Shamsudeen Amali, in



Invited guests at the event





his remarks encouraged all to read the book and emulate the character of the celebrant.

The book reviewer, Professor Afiz Oladosu stated that the book “Dynamics of Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences” was made up of scholarly articles from experienced and seasoned writers who contributed immensely to

the knowledge of students, teachers, lecturers and researchers whose works are found both in local and international journals”.

He said the book which was edited by Y. O. Imam, R. I. Adebayo and A. I. Ali-Agan, has 21 chapters, 559 pages and written both in English and Arabic was Published by Spectrum Books Limited, Ibadan

and dedicated to the work of their, teacher, mentor, benefactor and role model, Professor Is-haq Olorewaju Oloyede, OFR, FNAL.

Professor Is-haq Olorewaju Oloyede the celebrant, in his response thanked and appreciated all for honouring the invitation and all the good things they said about him.

Prof. B.B Shehu Mounts the Saddle at FUBK

The Executive Secretary Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, MFR, FNAL received the newly appointed Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Birnin Kebbi recently in his office.

He congratulated Prof. Shehu on a well-deserved appointment; describing him as a quintessential professor, and referring to his erudition and discipline as a leading researcher and neurosurgeon saying that these attributes would serve him most fittingly in his assignment as Vice-Chancellor.

Prof. Rasheed urged him to make consultations about how best to do his assignment and endeavour to be accommodative of the challenges that invariably could come up in the course of the



Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, MFR, FNAL congratulating Prof. B.B. Shehu

journey of administration. The Executive Secretary urged him to build on the solid foundations laid for the university by its pioneer Vice-Chancellor Prof. Bilbis, expressing confidence

that his tenure would be a successful one.

Responding, Prof. Shehu thanked the Executive Secretary for the warm welcome accorded to his





Prof. Rasheed in a conversation with the guests while Prof. Shehu registering his name in the Visitors' Register

team and for his very kind words. He said he considered it a great honour and a humbling experience to be able to serve the Nigerian University System in general and the Federal University Birnin Kebbi in particular.

The new Vice-Chancellor, expressed his gratitude to his predecessor in office, Prof. Bilbis, who he said had put many things in place to ensure that his work would be made easier and pledged his commitment to

ensure that the university thrives.

Prof. Bilbis, pioneer Vice-Chancellor of FUBK in his comments recalled that the Vision for the Federal University Birnin-Kebbi was birthed and nurtured in the National Universities Commission. He further recalled that the University in its infancy had operated for over fourteen months from offices allocated to it in the Secretariat of the National Universities Commission. The university, he

said, remain perpetually indebted to the Commission for its support at that very critical time in their development. He expressed gratitude to the Commission for the support given to FUBK so far and hoped that the university would continue to enjoy such support.

Other members of the FUBK delegation included Alhaji Ibrahim Mungadi, Registrar FUBK, Alh. Rilwan Argungu, Bursar FUBK, and Dr. Suraya T. Shaibu Liaison Officer FUBK



Profs. Rasheed and Shehu (6th and 7th right) in a group photograph with other NUC Management and the delegation of FU, Birnin Kebbi





OOU Holds 27th Convocation Ceremony — Graduates 5,040, 18 First Class



From right: The University Librarian, Dr. Rahman Onaolapo Akinbode, the Registrar, Mrs. Omolara, Adeyinka Osunsanya, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ganiyu Olatunji Olatunde, Rep. of ES NUC, Mrs. Essien Usendiah, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ebunoluwa Olufemi Oduwole and the University Bursar, Mr. Semiu Adeniyi Makinde

It was a colourful and memorable event when Olabisi Onabanjo graduated no fewer than five thousand, and forty (5,040) students from various Colleges and Faculties of the University. Four thousand, three hundred and eighty-six (4,386) of this number were first degree graduates, while six hundred and fifty four (654) were graduands from the University's various Postgraduate programmes.

The breakdown showed that there were eighteen (18) graduands that earned First Class, six hundred and five (605) in second class upper division, one thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight (1,938) in second class lower division while one thousand, four hundred and two (1,402) had third class degree.

Only seventy-nine (79) had a pass degree and two hundred and eight (208) Diplomas from the Postgraduate School, seventy-five (75) had Ph.D degrees, three hundred and seventy-four (374) with Masters while one hundred and five (105) were awarded Postgraduate Diplomas and one (01) candidate had a Master of Philosophy.

In his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olatunde use the opportunity to reel out to the congregation some achievements he had made since his appointment on the 13th October, 2017.

He sincerely thanked the stakeholders of the University and the Governor of the State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, CON,

FCA for his financial support to his administration. He observed that the University had enjoyed stability for the last six years without disruptions. He said this phenomenon had encouraged many intending applicants for admission to consider the University as their first point of call.

The Vice-Chancellor revealed that the University had also scaled through the recent accreditation exercise with 96% of its programmes already accredited while seven new academic programmes were coming on board with the approval of the University Council for resource verification visits by the National Universities Commission.





VC, Prof. Olatunde and Rep of ES, NUC Mrs. Osendiah

On staff and students welfare, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that he had ensured prompt processing of staff requests for training and conference attendance which were sponsored by TETFund and other funding agencies and organizations.

He also said that his administration had provided well equipped facilities for teaching, research, administration and student life, provided more recreational facilities and support for Sport and Recreational activities, timely release of results of students and prompt processing of their transcripts and certificates. The vice chancellor also ensured that regular consultative forum were being held with all stakeholders to prevent crisis which might affect the University negatively.

On security within the Main Campus, Professor Olatunde revealed that a substantial active

amount was spent to purchase security gadgets, equipment and the installation of closed circuit TV for effective monitoring of the University. These were done with the financial assistance coming from WEMA Bank Plc.

Professor Olatunde informed the congregation that a prompt promotion and reward system for deserving staff were put in place and quite a number of staff that merited promotion got promoted and several other academic staff earned their doctoral degrees while additional professors were appointed.

The Vice-Chancellor said that he had opened discussions with the General Manager, Ogun State Housing Corporation and the Managing Director, Ogun State Property and Investment Company on the need for them to work together with the University in the provision of residential accommodation for staff and students of the University.

He stressed that the step would boost the residential status of the University and encourage many of the staff to stay in Ago-Iwoye and other campuses of the University.

However, the Vice-Chancellor affirmed that the major challenge facing the University was the inadequacy of fund to address the outstanding arrears of the various agreements that the Federal Government had reached with the University Unions – which they expect the State Government to settle.

Delivering the Convocation Lecture entitled: *State Universities in Nigeria: Problems, Prospects and Our Common Future* Professor O. Faborode, the Secretary General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors gave a list of criteria for the success of State Universities which he said includes but not limited to research innovation, inspiration, entrepreneurialship, visionary leadership and adequacy of fund.

He opined that all the criteria coupled with researches were antidote for perennial problems and challenges bedeviling the Universities. He observed that exploits in knowledge and technology must leverage with researches which would on the long run made state Universities contribute tremendously to the modern 21st century society.

The governor of the State and the Visitor to the University, His





Cross section of some graduands

Excellency, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, CON, FCA in his speech assured the University and the congregation that he would leave no stone unturned to ensure that the University moves up in its Webometric Ranking of 23rd position to become one of the best in Nigeria. He charged the people of Ogun State to support his administration in its quest to develop education at all levels.

He said he would not rest on his oars to make the University a world standard which encapsulate knowledge in all ramifications. He noted the hitch free academic session in the University and promised that very soon the Ilisan – Ago-Iwoye road that needed urgent rehabilitation would be asphalted to open up the University to the outside world. He called on graduands to keep themselves busy with necessary entrepreneurial-ship skills and desist from searching for white collar jobs after NYSC but to concentrate on creating safe and

reliable self employment.

Senator Ibikunle Amosun urged the graduands to always contribute to the growth and development of their Alma mata.

Earlier on, the Pro-Chancellor, Mrs. Mosun Belo Olusoga in her welcome address said that the vision of the current Council of the University was to reposition it with the utmost aim of attaining the status of a 21st century citadel of learning within the next five years and this would be pursued through an eight point Agenda:

- i. increase in internally generated funds,
- ii. increase in infrastructural development,
- iii. support for research aid development,
- iv. availability of basic amenities – power, water and good roads, increase in staff,
- v. students welfare,
- vi. robust ICT development,
- vii. increase in carrying capacity (staff students ratio) and
- viii. provision of social environment.

She revealed that the Governing Council had gotten the approval for the provision of counterpart fund for staff pension to enhance staff welfare. She advised the graduands to be diligent and passionate about what they do in order to be great.

The three day ceremony witnessed good will messages from the National Universities Commission and representatives of Sister Universities, valedictory speech by the best graduating students and the conferment of honorary Doctor of Letters on three eminent personalities.

They were:- His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo Olukeni III, the Alake of Egbaland and Chairman of Ogun State Council of Obas; Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukuede, the founder and Chairman of Coronation Capital Market and the immediate past President of Nigerian Stock Exchange, Mrs. Ibukun Awosika, Chairman Board of Directors, First Bank Plc and Founder/Chief Executive Officer of the Chair Centre Group and Professor Toyin Falola, the Jacob and Frances Sanyer Mossiker Chair in the humanities and University Distinguished Professor at the University of Texas, Austin, USA.

The ceremony was rounded off with the turning of sod and the laying foundation of the proposed University Senate complex by the Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, CON, FCA.





SLU Wins West African University Debate Championship



The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu (3rd left), holding the trophy won by the SLU Team

Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa (SLU) has won the 2018 Edition of the West African Universities Debate Championship at University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.

Four West African Countries attended the event that took place between 16th and 20th January 2018. The countries included Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Benin Republic.

The style of the debate was that of British Parliament in which four teams were assigned the role of government and opposition to debate on a motion given by the judges. In the Final Round the Team that represented SLU was given the role of

Opening Opposition while University Polytechnique of Benin, Cotonou, Benin Republic was the Closing Opposition. Zenith University, Ghana was the Opening Government and Redeemers University, Nigeria was the Closing Government.

The topic given to them was “The House will allow prisoners to raise their babies behind bars” and Team SLU was able to oppose the motion with seven convincing points that no other team could match. Thus, they were crowned champions of the 2018 Edition. Before reaching the final round, Team SLU scaled through five rounds and a semifinal.

SLU Team, which was led by an academic staff (coach), Idris Hamza Yana, included the following students: Hafsat Ado Ahmad, Haruna Abdurrahman, Ibrahim Hussaini Yakubu and Sumayya Ibrahim Saleh.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu, while receiving the trophy from the Team, congratulated them for the enviable feat which he believed will put the University on the global map of reputable Universities. He indicated that the success was not only for the SLU community but also Jigawa State and Nigeria in general.

