



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE  
ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA**



**26<sup>th</sup>  
Convocation  
Ceremony**



**Best Graduating Student  
2016/2017**

**Date:** 22nd November, 2018

**Venue:** FUNAAB Ceremonial Building Auditorium

**Time:** 9.00A.M Prompt

## VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

The Chancellor Sir,

Permit me to stand on the already established protocol.

Truly, God is a great God...Just as my name implies. Who would have thought? Eight years ago, if someone had told me a day like this would come, I would have laughed in the person's face just because I never thought I could reach this academic height.

Today, I feel absolutely privileged and honored representing the champions seated here today, the graduating class of 2016/17 session as the best graduating student. I wouldn't be standing here without you all. Thank you all for challenging me one way or the other to be here. I am glad this speech isn't just on behalf of myself but on behalf on each and every winner seated here. Therefore, I would like to say congratulations to myself and my fellow graduands. Yes, we made it! We cannot but express our gratitude to God on this special day because we have successfully completed the journey of 4,5 or 6 years.

Four years ago, when the journey started, I was extremely overjoyed on seeing my name on the admission list, I couldn't even sleep as I started to think about the life ahead. However, my first day at school opened my eyes to the realization of my new environment. There was this feeling I couldn't shake off. I knew I was in for serious business the moment I realized that there were thousands of brilliant minds that I would be learning next to in the university. So, I made a mental note to myself that I just have to try my best and graduate with a first class result.

I knew from the start that it wasn't going to be easy, considering the fact that I crossed from agricultural technology to nutrition and dietetics through direct entry. However, I didn't realize how much hardwork I have to put in just to make it until I got to my department, the department of nutrition and dietetics where I met my colleagues, extremely brilliant

minds, answering questions in class and bringing up nice ideas and innovations. These guys are good. Sometimes, I wonder how I was able to go far even in their midst. I am sure it wasn't only just my hardwork, but also consistent learning, teamwork and most of all, God.

Yes, graduating as a first class student was the initial goal, I never envisioned myself as becoming the best graduating student in the university at first. However, my orientation changed after I met with a brother and mentor, Dr A.J Sanda of the department of animal breeding and genetics. I remember clearly the first time we met and I told him my goal, he said and I quote *“Tobi, do you know if you can have 70% and above in all your courses this semester, that will be a great start for you and if you can maintain it, you can become the best student the university would produce in your set and can you imagine what that would feel like?”*. So it's safe to say I changed my goal and started working and praying hard towards it. Thus, with extra hardwork, dedication, perseverance and mostly God, I was able to reach my goal.

Today, I want to say thank you to each and every individual who has been a part of this success story. To my mother, who took the role of both father and mother and constantly strived to make me who I am today, I dedicate this day to u. Thanks to my departmental mates for the constant push and to the entire 2016/17 set because without you all in the setting, there wouldn't be a best graduating student.

On behalf of myself and other champions seated here, we realize we have come this far but not by ourselves. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to God for making this day possible. To our parents and guardians, thanks for supporting us this far. To our Chancellor, Vice-chancellor and other principal officers, thank you for the smooth running of the school and ensuring it gets to the apex. To our wonderful lecturers, thanks for your relentless efforts in imparting knowledge and molding us into people of substance. And to our friends and families, thanks for coming from far and near to share in our joy. God bless you all.

Finally, it's time to graduate! We have tried our best to reach this phase and we definitely deserve lots of accolades. However, let us always remember that life is in phases and what matters most is not about outdoing others but being your best at what you do. Constantly set goals for yourselves, reset them if need be, work and pray towards it in order to achieve it. Do your best to defend the degree you hold in your hands and try effortlessly to give back to your community by proffering solutions to the challenges faced by your society. Lastly, keep in mind that the only one that can limit you is YOU. You can only achieve what you think you can achieve. Congratulations once again to us all. Greater heights to us and may we continue to meet at the top.

God bless Nigeria. God bless Ogun state. God bless Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

God bless us all. Thank you all. It's truly been a pleasure.

**AKINYELE, Oluwatobilola Oyindamola**  
*2014/2840*

