

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE,
HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA AND FOUNTAIN UNIVESITY, OSOGBO**

Delivered on 20th June 2023/2nd Dhul Hijjah 1444 AH

As-Salam alaikum warahmatuhullahi wabarakatuhu,

On behalf of our Proprietor (NASFAT), Council, Senate, and the entire Fountain University Community, I felicitate with the entire Force and especially with Air Vice Marshal Hassan Bala Abubakar on his appointment yesterday as the Chief of the Air Staff. We are indeed excited about this appointment. May you lead with wisdom to protect our skies and contribute immensely to the peace and stability of the nation.

I am very pleased to be here today to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Nigerian Air Force Headquarters, Abuja, and Fountain University on our comprehensive partnership for strategic engagements from 2023 to 2028. This is undeniably a historic moment because this is the first MoU that I will be signing physically as the fourth Vice-Chancellor of Fountain University. The first MoU with the Teaching and Research in Natural Sciences for the Development in Africa (TReND in Africa) was signed through a virtual platform. Fountain University is therefore excited and grateful for the physical signing of the MoU with the Nigerian Air Force Headquarters, Abuja today. We also recognize the joy of the day for Force, as it marks the first public ceremony of Air Vice Marshal Hassan Bala Abubakar, as the Chief of the Air Staff. Your previous service as the Chief of Standard and Evaluation attests to the invaluable experience and expertise you will bring to this new role. We do not doubt that under your guidance, the Nigerian Air Force will continue to thrive and uphold the highest standards of professionalism. I pray for divine mercy and grace of God upon you and the office for a successful tenure.

I am pleased to re-introduce Fountain University, Osogbo, established by the Nasrul-Lahi-L-Fatih Society (NASFAT) in 2007. It is a non-profit making university with the vision to be a pace-setting higher education institution in terms of learning, character building, skill development, and service to humanity. Its mission is to produce competent and resourceful graduates with high moral standards. Since its establishment in 2007, the institution has recorded tremendous academic achievements, national and international networks, and visibility. At the moment, the University has four Colleges, namely; the College of Management and Social Sciences (COMASS), College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CONAS), College of Basic Medical and Environmental Health Sciences (COBMEHS), and College of Law (COLAW). In all, we have 19 academic programmes fully accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and some Postgraduate and sub-degree programmes. We planned to add the College of Arts and Education in the next academic session and continued to enrich other programmes. Let

me use this opportunity to highlight some of the recent achievements of FOU that are of interest to our kinship today.

1. Creation of Centre for Research, Innovation, and Technology (FUCRIT), Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (FUCED) and Centre for Linkages and Advancement (FULA).
2. NUC visit in July for the commencement of new undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. B.Sc. Electronics and Computer Science, B.Sc. Electronics and Communications as well as B.Sc. Criminology and Security Studies, M.Sc. & Ph.D. in Accounting, Political Science, Computer Science, and Public Administration. Efforts are also on-going for the commencement of the College of Arts and Education with programmes such as B.A. English, History and International Relations, B.A. Linguistics, B.A. Arabic, B.A. Islamic Studies, B.A. French, and B.Ed. programmes.
3. Provision of Smart Boards in some classrooms to meet up with the current technological trends and requirements for the 21st Century higher institution of learning.
4. Full NUC accreditation of Nursing Science, Public Health, Medical Laboratory Science, and Environmental Health Science in June.
5. Break-through on *Drosophila melanogaster* research model by our Biomedical research group.
6. Sponsored academic staff members to different academic conferences, seminars, and workshops in and outside the shores of Nigeria.
7. Staff Capacity Development: revised the policy on staff development for the acquisition of higher degrees and appropriate certificates.
8. College of Management and Social Sciences (COMAS) organized the first international conference of the College which featured scholars from within and outside Nigeria in attendance.
9. Signing of MoU with Teaching and Research in Natural Sciences for the Development in Africa (TReND in Africa) to establish a Molecular Biology and Genetic Diversity Laboratory to strengthen scientific research and education in the university and facilitate student exchange programmes among others.
10. Commercializing the Bola Babalakin Guest House as a business enterprise open to ordinary lodgers and international conference participants to boost Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).
11. Renovation and stocking of the University Library and renewal of all database subscriptions.
12. Getting included by the Federal Government of Nigeria in the National Broadband Infrastructure Project to improve network connectivity.
13. Support from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) for 100 units of laptops for the Advance Digital Appreciation programme.

14. Facilitated Cervical cancer tests for one hundred and eight (180) women in collaboration with Turner Wright Biosciences Ltd as one of the ways of giving back to society through the university.
15. Outreach programmes like the Law Clinic by our College of Law, Public Health Drive and Blood Donation awareness programmes by our College of Basic Health and Environmental Sciences and other community engagements, we are nurturing a generation of leaders who are driven by compassion and a desire to make a positive impact.

Our MoU today is very timely and important indeed, as the nation is on the pathway of restoration and renewed Hope agenda of President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. The MoU will therefore put us on the path of closer cooperation and firm commitment to national development. The Twenty-first century presents new and unknown challenges and opportunities. Our vision for continued excellence is to invest even more resources to enhance knowledge and foster wide-ranging research efforts to meet these new challenges, maximizing new opportunities for the benefit of mankind. No single institution, no matter how large or well-endowed, can address future challenges by itself. In this era of globalization and interdependence, a partnership with other institutions of academic excellence is not an option, but a necessity. We have put the right peg in the right hole.

I am comfortable with the general areas of our cooperation which are enumerated as four in the MoU. The first is to strengthen the human resource capacity in the form of staff exchange for short, medium or long-term periods which will enhance and guarantee scientific and scholarly cooperation in teaching, innovation, and research. The MoU also focuses on organization and execution of joint research activities as the second area. The third part is on organization of joint conferences, seminars, workshops and short-term academic programmes, the exchange of publications, while the fourth part is on common usage of facilities and laboratories.

The only part that will make this framework work would be our commitment individually and collectively. I am confident that with our concerted efforts, the MoU we are about to sign will deliver the benefits it promises. Let me reaffirm the readiness of FUO to the MoU as it was initiated by the former Vice-Chancellor, Prof Amidu Sanni. We are ready to deliver and fulfil our part *in-shaa-Allah*.

I wish to express my appreciation to the outgoing Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall (Dr) Isiaka Oladayo Amao, for his exceptional service as the Chief of Air Staff and for being a proud alumnus of Fountain University. His honorary doctorate award is a testament to his distinguished career and impactful contributions to the nation. I equally want to appreciate the Director of Research and Development, and all distinguished officers that contributed to the realization of

this MoU. On the side of FUO, I recognize the efforts of the registrar, Mr. Sheriff Adenekan and the legal officer.

I want to conclude by thanking you for the relationship as I share the same feeling of excitement and optimism when we think of the wonderful possibilities that can come about as we enter this historic partnership today. I look forward to the successful implementation of our MoU.

Thank you for your rapt attention.

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim
Vice-Chancellor