

## **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE MERIT AWARD CEREMONY**

### **- 13<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION CEREMONIES -**

**Delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 / 29<sup>th</sup> Jumada Thani 1445 AH**

*As-Salam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,*

It is with immense pleasure and great honour that I welcome the Chairman of this occasion, Justice Adekunle Ajeigbe, who is also the Chairman of the Osun State Fountain University Development Forum, and all our distinguished guests to the maiden edition of the University Merit Award ceremony, being held as part of the lined-up activities for the 13<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies.

Today, we gather not only to celebrate academic achievements but also to recognize and honour the outstanding contributions of our former Vice-Chancellors, Registrars, distinguished staff, students, alumni and community members who have demonstrated unparalleled commitment and excellence. Today's University Merit Award ceremony is a testament to our commitment to excellence and virtue. In alignment with the teachings of the Glorious Qu'ran on the merits of good deeds encapsulated in the verse, "Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds" (An-Nahl 16:97), this award ceremony serves as a testament to the belief that excellence, when combined with virtuous deeds, leads to a truly enriching life.

As we continue on this journey of acknowledging merit and excellence, let us draw further inspiration from the profound words of Aristotle, who once said, "Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, determines your destiny." The University Merit Award exemplifies our commitment to nurturing both intellect and character and recognizing individuals who embody the essence of true education.

At this juncture, I would like to use this opportunity to appreciate the sponsor of this occasion, Alhaji Chief Kola Karim, for his contribution to academic excellence through this merit award. The university is sincerely grateful and appreciates your support immensely. *Warafa'anahu makana aliyah.*

Distinguished guests, among the categories of awards we celebrate today are the Researcher of the Year, Best Non-Teaching Staff, Hostel Manager, FSP, GK and the Award for two community members that are greatly supporting the university. These categories reflect our appreciation for the diverse contributions that make our university community thrive. Moreover, we shall also

honour our student scholars and best sports student. Our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals is exemplified in the acknowledgment of these exceptional students.

Former Vice-Chancellors and Registrars, pillars of our university's progress, are also to be recognized today. Their enduring impact has paved the way for the excellence we strive for today. We equally recognize some alumni who have kept the flag of the university flying. On this momentous occasion, let us share in the joy of those who have illuminated our institution with their dedication and passion. Through the University Merit Awards, we extend our deepest gratitude to those who have played a pivotal role in shaping the legacy of our great university. Our desire is to use this award ceremony to reward excellence and spur others to excellence.

As I conclude this address, let me remind you of the vision of our esteemed institution. Fountain University, Osogbo, as a prestigious Islamic faith-based centre of higher education, is committed to nurturing competitive and resourceful graduates with exemplary moral standards. A warm welcome to each of you once again on this meaningful occasion, as it marks the first convocation ceremonies under my watch as the fourth substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University. It is truly an honour to stand before you today and I look forward to witnessing the continued excellence and impact of our university community. Congratulations to all of us and most especially to all the awardees.

Fountain leads, others follow!

Thank you for your rapt attention.

**Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim**  
**Vice-Chancellor**