

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR/CHAIRMAN,
GOVERNING COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA
AT THE MAIDEN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH THE PRO-
CHANCELLOR AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA GOVERNING
COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 15TH JUNE, 2026, AT PRINCESS ALEXANDRA
AUDITORIUM (PAA), NSUKKA MAIN CAMPUS, ENUGU STATE**

Courtesies

Distinguished Members of the Governing Council,
The Vice Chancellor,
Deputy Vice Chancellors,
Registrar,
Bursar,
University Librarian,
Chairman of ASUU, UNN Chapter,
Chairman of CONUA,
Chairman of SSANU,
Chairman of NASU
Chairman of NAAT,
President of Student Union Government,
President of the University Alumni,
The Royal Fathers Present,
Esteemed Members of Staff
Distinguished Students,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am indeed delighted to be in your midst today on this important Interactive Session with the members of the University of Nigeria Governing Council, school communities and relevant stakeholders. It is indeed a great honour and am deeply humbled.

I want to commence by expressing my utmost gratitude to God Almighty for the gift of life and his grace on us all. Also my very sincere thanks to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander in- Chief of the Armed Forces - His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, on whose authority I take the mantle of leadership to steer this great citadel of learning, into its next era of growth and impactful development. My heart-felt appreciation goes to the Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa and the Minister of State for Education, Professor Suwaiba Said Ahmad, for the trust reposed in me to lead this great Institution. I am profoundly grateful to the Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency, Dr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah. My warm appreciation goes to the Senate and the House of Representatives, for their effective oversight and for the existing close collaboration.

I also want to appreciate the founding father of this First-Line University, His Excellency, RT. Honorable, Dr Nnamdi Benjamin Azikiwe, GCFR, PC, “the Zik of Africa”, on whose efforts and legacy of the University of Nigeria Nsukka was established, as a fully autonomous tertiary education Institution, conceived, built, and operated by Nigerians, without direct colonial oversight. Although he

is no more, his great and befitting legacy speaks loud and clear, at UNN.

I must openly and most sincerely, commend the Vice Chancellor and the Management of this noble Institution, led by - Professor Simon Uchenna Ortuany, for their exemplary leadership and resilience, in steering the Ship of this great University, and ensuring that the institution, is on its academic track. The Vice Chancellor, with all sense of responsibility, you have enviable proven capacity for coordinating the affairs of the School and I urge you to be steadfast, as a greater task is ahead, because as the saying goes; “to whom much is given, much is expected”.

To all the chairmen of the organized unions and the executives of the Students’ Union Government, I am grateful to you all for your continuous support to the university authorities and management, in ensuring that the mandate of the University is actualized.

I applaud the University Luminaries, both academic and non-teaching, for attaining the enviable position of the best University in the country. (The United Arab Emirates-based Centre for World University Rankings for 2026).

In the same way, I wish to thank the host communities for their hospitality and support, which has allowed peace to continue to reign in our dear Institution. And to the esteemed Council Members, please accept my most sincere appreciation, guidance and leadership.

As you are aware, the cardinal purpose of this meeting is to familiarize ourselves with one another, and chart a way forward in ensuring that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, actualizes its mandate, and maintain its admirable position as the leading university of thought in Nigeria and Africa at large. The University is highly regarded, and it is often recognized as a highly prestigious institution, often fondly called the "Giant Awake".

The University System in Nigeria today operates in a dynamic, highly competitive, and technology-driven global landscape. To remain relevant, we must transition from being just centres of degree awarding establishments, to hubs of innovation, entrepreneurship, and practical problem-solving institutions. This, the Governing Council is committed to enforcing global best practices, ensuring transparency, fostering an environment where merit is a non-negotiable currency, for advancement, recovering and restoring the glory once commanded by UNN, in Nigeria.

You will all agree with me that a robust and sound academic institution is a pre-requisite for nation-building. It is therefore no more news that the University is passing through a series of challenges, which to me, are surmountable. To do that however, requires strength of purpose, boldness, decisiveness, sheer determination, a change of mind set, and above all, personal and corporate sacrifices. It requires encouragement, empowerment, putting together the necessary forces and uprooting the unwanted ones.

This gathering is therefore, a wake-up call for all. We must accept to change our mindset, to make positive progress and promote the prosperity of the University of Nigeria Nsukka. This Interactive Session is therefore a veritable mechanism to articulate forward looking ideas, in order to put together data/inputs from the wealth of knowledge of all those concerned, so as to strengthen the structural progress, shape the policies, programmes, attitudes and mind-set at all levels, in making our University, great.

Please, recall that this Institution has produced prominent personalities, who have impacted positively in all spheres of life, both domestically and globally. Thus, the University is a viable heritage we should all cherish and need, and we therefore not to pull it down. We should, consequently, continue to prosper in progress. Above all, we need peace to sustain whatever structures that we have built. I urge you all to be vigilante, given the serious current security challenges in the country.

Accordingly, I am initiating an action tool, to be known as the 4Rs: **(Repositioning, Realigning, Rebranding, and Relaunching)**. These strategic tools will comprehensively overhaul the University to keep it relevant, competitive, and aligned with modern educational demands and stakeholders' expectations. The process involves changing the Intuition's narratives through academic focus, and visual identity to foster a new, viable and stronger image.

To the Academic and Non-Teaching Staff, I assure you that under my watch-your rights, privileges, and promotions will be handled fairly

and transparently, while I am Pro-chancellor and Chairman of Council. In return, the Council demands unwavering dedication, zero tolerance for academic exploitation (such as extortion, sorting, threats, and other forms of infractions), and a renewed commitment to discipline and institutional integrity.

To our esteemed Students, you are critical stakeholders in this new journey. We are committed to upgrading our campus infrastructure, providing a conducive learning environment, and expanding digital resources. You are, accordingly, expected to channel your energy into academic excellence, character-building, positive attitudes, and leveraging your skills for national development.

It is no secret that dependency on public funding, cannot sustain the expectations of the modern University. The current economic realities demand creative and aggressive resource mobilization. The Governing Council, under my leadership, will focus heavily on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), alumni engagement, and enhancement Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), through strategic research commercialization and consultancy services.

It's obvious that progress can only be achieved in an atmosphere of peace and industrial harmony. The Governing Council will operate with a commitment to dialogue, equity and fairness. We will work harmoniously with all campus unions—ASUU, SSANU, CONUA NASU, NAAT, and Students' Union Government (SUG), to proactively resolve all grievances timely and amicably, before they escalate into

industrial actions. I therefore stretch out my hands of friendship to all stakeholders, because we are partners in progress. Let us put the peace, stability, and progress of our dear UNN, above all personal and factional interests. “Ever forward and backward never.”

In appreciation of our unified effort, I sincerely appeal to you all, to support the Governing Council and the School’s Management, in championing the mandate, and the good programmes, of our prestigious University.

Let me state without equivocation, that the Governing Council will strictly be guided by the University’s Act, institutional statutes, and the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in all its actions. I wish to stress that, we are here to build upon the solid foundations laid by our predecessors, correct flaws, where they exist, and leave the University much better, and stronger, than we met it.

I plead with everyone—management, staff, students, alumni and unions, to rise and build our esteemed University, with wisdom, purpose, and unity. With the Grace of the Almighty God, we shall transform UNN into a true beacon of knowledge and innovation. I strongly believe that at UNN, the burden is on us to know, and to do, what we ought to do.

Upholding the motto of our highly revered varsity: **“To Restore the Dignity of Man,”** reflects the University's foundational vision—championed by its founder, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, to empower Africans

and elevate the human condition through robust, practical, and globally competitive education.

As we embark on the journey of repositioning our very dear University of Nigeria, I have strong confidence that we will not only pursue its founding vision, we shall also overtake, restore and recover our past glory.

On behalf of the Governing Council, I want to re-iterate my strong commitment to promoting innovative modalities, in accelerating a sustainable academic environment, and the realization of our founding father's vision in building the institution that we all want.

Thank you for your kind attention.

God bless our University.

God bless Enugu State.

God Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Prof Adegboyega Adebayo Karim, *fsi+*, FCILT, FICCON, FIDMSS, FSPSP
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council.