



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

39TH CONVOCATION LECTURE CITATION



Chairman of the Convocation Lecture
CHIEF UCHE GEOFFREY NNAJI
MINISTER OF INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FMIST)



Convocation Lecture Presenter
KHALIL SULAIMAN HALILU
EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
INFRASTRUCTURE (NASENI)



DATE
Friday, 14th February, 2025



TIME
4:00pm prompt



VENUE
CBN Centre of Excellence, BUK New Campus

CITATION OF CHIEF UCHE GEOFFREY NNAJI

Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji (Nwakaibie) was born and bred in Enugu State. All his educational pursuits – primary, secondary and university – were in Enugu State. This background earned him the label of an unadulterated "Enugu Boy".

He is a Science graduate (BioChemistry/MicroBiology) from University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu State, and an accomplished businessman. He ventured into business after his National Youth Service, specializing in such businesses as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, motor spare parts, and other equipment.



He joined politics, contested and was elected in 1999 as the Senator for Enugu East Senatorial Zone. However, he unconditionally relinquished the seat to His Excellency Chief Jim Nwobodo and returned to his business. He expanded the

spheres of his business to include estate development, specialized cancer diagnostics/handling equipment, and runs equipment maintenance agreement for cancer in several university teaching hospitals in Nigeria.

He returned to politics in 2023, contesting the governorship election in Enugu State as an APC candidate. He was appointed Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology in the same year, 2023, by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Join me in welcoming the Chair of today's Convocation Lecture, Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji, the Honourable Minister of Innovation Science and Technology.

CITATION OF KHALIL SULEIMAN HALILU

Khalil Suleiman Halilu, Executive Vice Chairman of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), is driving Nigeria's industrial and technological transformations. Appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in September 2023, Khalil has transformed NASENI into a hub of innovation, bridging the gap between research and commercialization.



Born in Kano State, Khalil is an expert in Data Science, Business, and IT, he also contributes as a board member and advisor to prominent organizations such as Kunming Power China Group, Nuli Foods Company, Sudabelt Medical, Broadbased Communications, and Gongoni Company Limited.

In his first year at NASENI, the Agency launched 35 groundbreaking products, including electric vehicles, solar-powered water pumps, and smart devices, advancing Nigeria's innovation ecosystem. Khalil also spearheaded the establishment of Nigeria's largest Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Reverse Engineering Center, addressing energy independence. He has enhanced productivity and working conditions within the agency.

Prior to his appointment by President Bola Tinubu in September 2023, Halilu was a serial entrepreneur and technology enthusiast. He is the Founder and founding Chairman of The CANs Technology Hub, and CEO of ShapShap Technologies Limited, winner of the 'Mobility and Smart Cities Innovator' Prize in the Supernova Challenge Pitch Competition at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition, GITEX, in Dubai, UAE, in October 2022. In addition to founding ShapShap, a Nigerian logistics startup targeting the last-mile delivery market, Halilu founded OyaOya, Africa's 1st on-

demand commodity marketplace. The CANs Technology Hub, which he founded in 2020, in Abuja, Nigeria, is West Africa's first eco-friendly Technology Hub.

Khalil's leadership has earned him prestigious accolades, including the Engineering and Industrial Innovation Award, the 2024 Young Global Leader Award, and the Royal African Award from the Ooni of Ife.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I present to you our Convocation Lecturer, Khalil Suleiman Halilu.

