

● **Special Interview:** I Have Thrust FUTMinna into Global Reckoning - Prof. Akanji

● **Pro-Chancellor Calls For Innovative Revenue Drive**  
▪ Prof Ajenka Calls for Entrepreneurial University System in Nigeria.

● **Emir of Kano Lauds FUTMinna, Gives Kudos to Council**



# FUTMINNA

## Newsletter

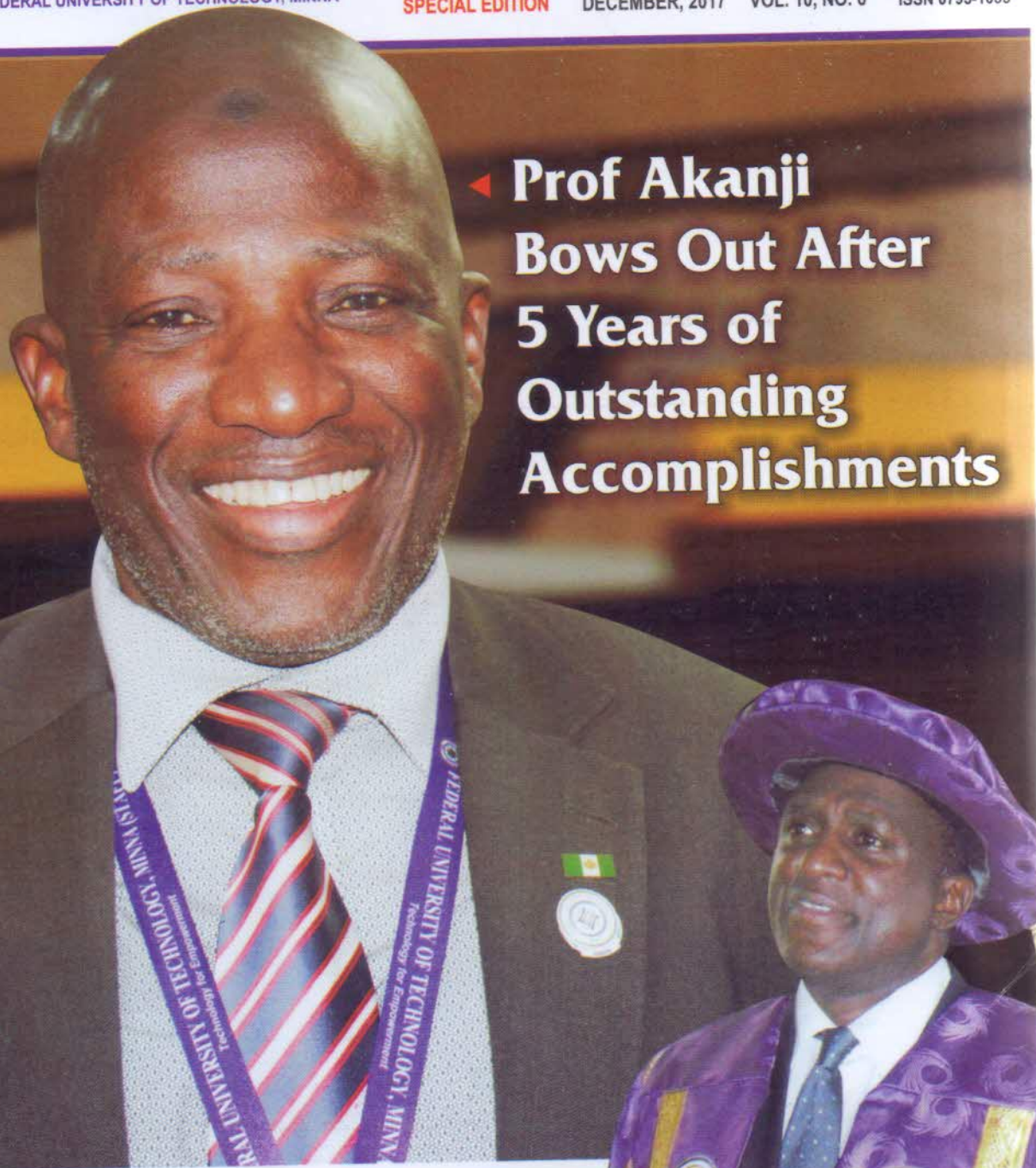
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◀ **Prof Akanji  
Bows Out After  
5 Years of  
Outstanding  
Accomplishments**

**FUTMinna Gets New VC** ▶  
▪ Prof Akanji Hands Over to Prof Bala



# Goodwill Message

I wish to warmly rejoice with Prof. Abdullahi Bala, (FSSSN), (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Your appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of this prestigious University didn't come to me as a surprise because you have the capacity to manage people and resources, having acquired a rich-wealth of experience over the years as Head of Department, Director, Centre for Preliminary and Extra Mural Studies, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Academic) of this great citadel of learning.

My Vice-Chancellor Sir, I consider your appointment as a positive sign that will further enhance the development of the University.

I, also wish to salute my friend, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS for his stupendous contributions to the development of FUT, Minna in all facets. We appreciate you for your sincerity and openness in the discharge of your duties in the last five years.

I wish you success in your future endeavours. Congratulations.



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala**

*Signed*

**Prof. Akim O. Osunde and Family**  
Former DVC Academic, FUT, Minna





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## Editor's Note

The last five years under the leadership of Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, has been eventful for the University. The University achieved a lot of milestones and became the toast of many. The out-going Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Akanji can aptly be described as a sticker for service delivery. This is evident in his developmental strides ranging from facilities upgrade, introduction of new academic programmes and Schools, adherence to the tenets of University laws and statutes, and thrusting the University to international recognition. FUT, Minna is now first among specialised Universities in Nigeria, 5<sup>th</sup> in Nigeria and 45<sup>th</sup> in Africa.

The lead story in this edition chronicled Prof. Akanji's contributions to the development of FUT, Minna. We also had an exclusive interview with the out-going Vice-Chancellor he narrated the secret of his success story as the VC of the University. We have details of the interview for you in this special publication.

As the curtains draw on the administration of Prof. Akanji, FUT, Minna Newsletter wish him well in his future endeavours. We also have a story on our astute, pragmatic and dynamic new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Balaon his appointment as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University. FUT, Minna Newsletter welcome you on board and wish you well in your quest to advance the fortunes of the University and make it a global citadel of learning.

This and many more are packaged in this edition for your reading delight. Enjoy!



Lydia Legbo



# Minister Inaugurates New Governing Council For FUTMinna

The Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu has inaugurated the newly constituted governing council for the Federal University of Technology, Minna, along with those of 22 other federal universities, with the charge to live above board in the discharge of their duties.

The Minister stated this during the inauguration ceremony held at the Idris Abdulkadiri Auditorium, National Universities Commission (NUC) Secretariat, Abuja on Tuesday, May 10, 2017.

Mallam Adamu stated that the inauguration came on the heels of the completion of the tenure of the immediate past governing councils appointed by the Federal Government in April, 2013.

"It is worth mentioning that the selection process leading to the inauguration we are witnessing today has been painstakingly accomplished in order to ensure that only men and women of character, integrity, and knowledge, who will add value to the Nigerian university system are constituted into the governing councils of federal universities," he disclosed.

He disclosed that the governing councils are charged with the responsibilities of approving the financial guidelines of the universities; determining the terms and conditions of appointment of the Vice-Chancellors and Principal Officers of the universities as well as annually reviewing the universities' budgets to monitor their performance and assess the overall impact of their implementation, among others.

The Minister tasked the council members to join the war against corruption, adding that any corrupt practice by councils including condoning cases of indiscipline by staff, is bound to have a destructive effect on the system and, on the products of the system.

"If any governing council fails in its statutory responsibility of properly managing the governance crisis in its university, including appropriate sanctions on erring officers, after following due process and due diligence, such a governing council shall be dissolved for incompetence in line with the provisions of the Act appointing you," the Minister warned.

"In view of the current economic situation in the country, I call for the prudent management of the scarce resources, while efforts should be intensified to broaden the Internally Generated Revenue Base of each

university," the Minister emphasised.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Rasheed charged the new council members to be committed in the discharge of their duties, saying that their actions can make or mar the progress of the universities.

Prof. Rasheed assured the newly inaugurated council members of NUC support in the discharge of their duties.

In his address at the event, the Chairman, House Committee on Tertiary Education and Services, Comrade Suleiman Aminu urged the council members to work closely with the Vice-Chancellors in order to ensure unity of purpose.

He assured the council members that the legislature would continue to champion the call for increase in budgetary allocation to federal universities in the country.

Speaking with Campus News after a brief meeting with Management and other council members, the Pro-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Olufemi Odekunle said he would bring his over forty years' experience in the university system to bear in advising the University on issues that would enhance its mission and vision.

The Pro-Chancellor expressed joy with the fact that the University is not known to be an abode for cultists or rancorous university characterized with crises,

adding that he would work with other council members in line with its mandate as enshrined in the University laws and statutes.

Other members of the University Governing Council are: Abdulrahman Muh'd Alfa, Alh. Musa Jibrin Madigawa, Chief Hon. Halims Agoda and Barr. Gafar Babatunde Alabi.

Prof. Odekunle is now the 8th Pro-Chancellor of the University. It will be recalled that Chief Edwin K. Clark served as the pioneer Pro-Chancellor from 1983-1984.

Late Dr. Suleiman Kumo served as the second Pro-Chancellor from 1984-1993 while Alh. Muhammed Kaloma Aliyu served from 1993-1994 and late Alh. (Dr.) Hamidu Alkali served between 1994-2000. Others are HRH Alh. (Dr.) Muhammed Zayyanu Abdullahi, Emir of Yauri who served from 2000-2005; Chief B. M. Wifa (SAN), from 2005-2009 while Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali served from 2009-2017.

The appointment is for a period of four years.

In a related development, the Dean, School of Physical Sciences (SPS), FUT, Minna, Prof. Abubakar Sadauki has been inaugurated as the Chairman, Governing Board, Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State.

The ceremony took place yesterday at the Idris Abdulkadiri Auditorium, National Universities Commission, Abuja, where the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu inaugurated the Governing Boards of 25 Federal Polytechnics.



The Minister, Mallam Adamu Adamu (2nd from left) presenting letter of appointment to FUT, Minna Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle during inauguration of Federal Universities Council at the NUC Secretariat, Abuja.



## FUTMINNA COUNCIL MEETS STAFF, STUDENTS

- Pro-Chancellor Assures of Fairness, Justice
- Urges Students to Shun Sentiments

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Femi Odekunle has assured that the Council under his leadership has listening ears and would uphold justice in the discharge of its duties.

Prof. Odekunle who gave this assurance during a meeting between members of the newly inaugurated Council and the University Congregation at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus said that the Council would always be guided by the existing law, principles of fairness, justice and common sense.

He however, appealed to staff to remain committed to the University's mandate and as well continue to cooperate with the Council and Management of the institution.

The Pro-Chancellor who stressed the need for mutual respect and cooperation among all cadres of the

University staff in order to achieve the vision and mission of the institution, said everybody in the system is important.

On Staff-Student relationship, he urged lecturers to help students imbibe integrity and anti-corruption attitude.

He however, warned that Council would deal "squarely" and "ruthlessly" with any case of corruption brought before it.

Prof. Odekunle described FUT, Minna as a peaceful, secure and performing university.

Earlier, in an interactive session with students at the same venue, the Pro-Chancellor enjoined the students to shun primordial, ethnic and religious sentiments when dealing with others in order to make their lives better.

He disclosed that Council decided to meet with them first because they were the most crucial stakeholders in

the University and leaders of tomorrow on whom the country would depend for technological advancement.

Prof. Odekunle emphasised the importance of good character and admonished them on the need for critical thinking and objectivity in all they do.

The Pro-Chancellor told the students that FUT, Minna has one of the best environments among Nigerian universities, which they should be proud of.

There was a question and answer session where the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji responded to questions from the students.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji, urged the students to always report service failure and challenges they face to the authorities, just as he assured them of improvement in all the identified areas.

Pro-Chancellor also had an interactive session with the University Senate.

Addressing the Senate at the Senate



The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle addressing FUT, Minna students at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus



Cont'd from page 3

#### FUTMINNA COUNCIL MEETS STAFF, STUDENTS

Chamber, Main Campus, the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle said the Senate is the soul of the University based on its representation in Council, Congregation as well as other committees of the University and urged them to put the interest of the institution first in all their deliberations.

The Pro-Chancellor informed the University Senate that Council under his leadership would not interfere with the statutory responsibilities of the Senate, adding that the Council would be guided by the extant laws of the institution. He admonished them to be objective in their decision making.

“As Senate members of the University, your decision should be objective and do not allow parochial

sentiments to override your sense of judgment. You must ensure that good conscience and fairness determine the outcome of your decisions,” the Pro-Chancellor advised.

#### Council On Facility Tour

In order to get a first-hand impression of facilities at the University, members of the newly inaugurated Governing Council, led by the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle had on Monday, June 12, 2017 embarked on a familiarisation tour of the Bosso and Main Campuses of the institution.

At the Bosso Campus, they visited the male and female hostels where they inspected the facilities and interacted with the inhabitants.

They were also shown the facilities there, just as they visited, the FUTMIN Ventures and the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

Campus Radio Search was the first port of call at the Main Campus, where the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle granted an interview.

The Council members also visited the students' hostels at the Main Campus and had interactions with the hostel inhabitants.

They were also at the Centre for Information and Communication Technology, (SICT), where the Acting Dean, Engr. Prof. Chigochika Onwuka showed the facilities.

## THREE FUTMINNA STUDENTS WIN SCHOLARSHIP

A Florida, United States-based organization, Educational Opportunities in Nigeria (EON) has awarded scholarship to three students in the

Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Out of the total of 13 applicants from the University in the 2016/2017 Academic Session, Oluyomi Ayanfeoluwa, 400 level, Department of Cyber Security Science with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.87 emerged first; Adebayo Kabiru, 500 level, Civil Engineering, with 4.81 CGPA came second while Bello Mubarak Ayo, 400 level, 4.82 CGPA, Chemical Engineering got the 3rd position.

Each of the winner got a cash prize of N60 thousand naira.

In his brief remark at the award ceremony which took place at the Vice-Chancellor's conference room, Main Campus, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, said that it is always a thing of joy to see organisations like EON coming to the aid of students as poverty was doing a

lot of harm to educational progress of many indigent students.

While commending the Student Affairs Division for successfully coordinating the scholarship exercise, he implored the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the money.

In his speech, Director of EON, Pastor Adewumi Ojo, said the group is committed to

doing its best to assist education in Nigeria.

The EON, a non-profit organization is a group of Nigerians in Florida, United States with the aim of helping indigent students in Nigeria.

The group whose first intervention at the University was in 2015, three prizes were won by students from the Department of Chemical Engineering, also plans to establish libraries in Nigeria with educational materials.





## GEN ABUBAKAR EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN ODEKUNLE LED COUNCIL

Former Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar has expressed confidence that the new Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna will lead the University to greater heights.

Gen. Abubakar who stated this when members of the Governing Council paid him a courtesy call at his Hill-Top residence in Minna hinged his optimism on the exposure and experience of the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle as well as the composition of the Council.

Noting that education is facing challenges in Nigeria, like in other developing countries in view of economic challenges and the ever increasing demand for university education, Governing Councils now have an enormous responsibilities, he said.

He thanked them for the visit and wished them success in their assignment.



Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (9) flanked by Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle and VC, Prof. Musbau Akanji in a group photograph with F.U.T. Minna Council members and 5th from left (front row), Rtd. Justice Fati Abubakar

Speaking earlier, the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle said the visit was to appreciate him for his kind and fatherly disposition to the University.

Prof. Odekunle disclosed that he considers himself lucky to be assigned to FUT, Minna, which is a peaceful, secure and performing university.

He promised to do his best to improve on what the University has achieved.

As the visit coincided with Gen. Abubakar's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Pro-Chancellor led the members of Council on a birthday song for the former leader, while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji later presented a customised birthday card to him on behalf of the University.

## Etsu Nupe Assures FUTMinna Council Maximum Cooperation



FUT, Minna Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle poses for a snapshot with Etsu Nupe, Alh. (Dr.) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR shortly after a courtesy visit to the Monarch in Bida

From the Etsu Nupe and Chairman, Niger State Council of Traditional Rulers, HRH, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, has come an

assurance of maximum cooperation with the new Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Etsu Yahaya Abubakar gave this assurance when the members of Council paid him a courtesy call at his Wadata Palace in Bida.

The Monarch further pledged to contribute his quota to the development of FUT, Minna, maintained that his doors would remain open to the Council.

Noting the enormity of the Council's responsibilities, especially in the present times with lean resources but high expectations, he prayed for Allah's guidance, knowledge, wisdom and strength for them to succeed.

Earlier, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle told the Etsu Nupe that the visit was to pay homage to him and thank him for his support to the University over the years and to as well assure him of living in harmony with the host community.

He said that FUT, Minna is one of the most peaceful universities in the country, a situation that would not have been possible if the host community was not peaceful.



## PROF. AKANJI BOWS OUT AFTER 5 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



*Prof. Akanji*

Indeed, time flies when you are happy. It was the award winning writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie who once said that in her debut novel titled *Purple Hibiscus*. It was just like yesterday when Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB assumed office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2012 as the 6<sup>th</sup> substantive Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna. His appointment was received with mixed feelings, most especially those who had wanted a “home boy” Vice-Chancellor. Some even went as far as asking; Prof. Akanji who? This particular group of people had hitherto seen

him as a dark-horse in the race because they were oblivious of his academic and administrative credentials.

But for many who had followed Prof. Akanji's antecedents right from his halcyon days at the University of Ilorin knew him as a thorough bred academic with immense substance and nobility. This particular group of people knew FUT, Minna had gotten the best person out of the eminently qualified candidates that vied for the position. The few who took to the streets to protest Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji's appointment in 2012 did not know that his



## PRO-CHANCELLOR CALLS FOR INNOVATIVE REVENUE DRIVE

•Prof Ajiienka Calls For Entrepreneurial University System in Nigeria



L-R: The Pro-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Odekunle applauding a point by a participant at the retreat while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji raises his hand to make a point.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Femi Odekunle has tasked Management of the institution to develop innovative revenue generating strategies in order to address the problem of funding.

The don stated this while declaring open a 3-day Strategic Planning Retreat organised for members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor designate, and other selected staff of the institution held at the Boardroom, Barcelona Hotels, Abuja recently.

Prof. Odekunle stated that government alone cannot continue to fund tertiary education in the country, adding that there is utmost need for Management to think outside the box on how to boost its internally generated revenue and to cut down on the cost of operations.

The Pro-Chancellor said for the University to continue to be relevant in the 21st century, there is need for massive investment in research and development, as well as recruitment of competent manpower towards achieving the vision and mission of the University.

He disclosed that the rationale for the approval of the retreat for Council members and the Vice-Chancellor designate was the desire to further enhance the development of the University.

"The Council was inaugurated in May, 2017, and is made up of eminent personalities. We believe that this retreat at this point in time will be beneficial to members

in order to forge common agenda on ways to actualise the vision and mission of the University," the don disclosed.

The Chairman of Council noted that the retreat would also enable the University to improve on its local and international rankings, saying that the decision to fix the retreat for Abuja was to avoid distractions that would have characterised such event in Minna.

While delivering his address at the retreat titled: The

Journey So Far, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, said the purpose of the retreat was to chart a strategic plan for the University in the next five years in line with the vision and mission of the institution, saying that the strategic plan would also direct the activities of the University in terms of funding, research and development in the next five years..

Prof. Akanji stated that there was a massive improvement in all facets of the University when compared with what he met on assumption of office in 2012 while noting that he has launched the institution into international recognition, adding that the University has accomplished a lot in terms of research breakthrough, teaching, collaborations and service delivery.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that FUT, Minna now has active Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and collaboration with institutions in Nigeria, Africa, Asia, Europe and America. He noted that the decision to upgrade the hitherto University Board of Research to a



director status has resulted in the University researchers winning many competitive research grants.

On the University present ranking, the helmsman disclosed that FUT, Minna was number 17 in Nigeria and not among the best 100 universities in Africa when he assumed duty in 2012 while revealing that the University has moved geometrically from being 17th in 2012 to 5th in Nigeria in 2017, first among the specialised universities in Nigeria and 45th in Africa out of over 4, 345 universities that were rated by various international ranking bodies.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that in line with global best practices, the University has fixed specific dates for its matriculation and convocation ceremonies. He also stated that the University has hosted several national and international conferences, imbibed openness in running its affairs as well as running an inclusive administration.

He advised the Vice-Chancellor designate, Prof. Abdullahi Bala to improve on inclusiveness of the various tendencies in the University, aggressive revenue drive, regular meetings of the different organs of the university, maintain harmonious working relationship with Council and address the paucity of bed spaces on campus.

The lead resource person at the retreat, Prof Joseph Atubokiki Ajenka who was the former Vice-Chancellor, University of Port-Harcourt said that Nigerian universities should adopt the entrepreneurial system of university in order to address the problem of funding since government at various levels are no longer funding the sector properly.

He disclosed this while delivering a paper titled: *Becoming An Entrepreneurial University: Why it Matters.*

The don stated that to become a successful entrepreneurial university, the University's entrepreneurial and innovation agenda must reflect in its policies, mission, budget allocation, incentives and curriculum. He advised that the agenda must be furthered through student competitions and incubators.

He advised researchers to discard the hitherto held view of publish and imbibe the evolving trend of patent publish and produce in order to generate funds for the University and also contribute to sustainable development.

Prof. Ajenka said that the latest trend around the world is that most universities are now transforming their campuses to entrepreneurial universities based on its inherent benefits ranging from job creation and regional economic development, additional sources of revenue and nurturing an entrepreneurial and innovative spirit among students, faculty and administrators.

The former VC advised Management of the University to develop partnerships with private industries to support and fund research; license University-owned technology and make entrepreneurship and innovation training available to



*Prof. Ajenka one of the resource persons making*

staff, students and the community.

Presenting his paper titled: *Sustaining Your Strategy Through Dynamic Leadership*, the CEO, NiTech, Dr. Segun Ogunkola said the University's strategic plan must be in tandem with the vision and mission of the institution and that all departments must key into the plan.

Dr. Ogunkola disclosed that for the University to continue to be relevant among its peers in the 21st century, emphasis must be on research that would lead to patent, saying that the University can be self sufficient through money accruable from research, patent, spin-off companies and commercialisation.

The CEO advised Council members and the Vice-Chancellor designate to look inward by cultivating its alumni and friends to generate funds through endowments to run its activities rather than depending on government subvention.

He stated that the content of the retreat was built around four perspectives namely: purpose, stakeholders, internal process and people in order for the university to continue to add value in all its activities.

Another experienced resource person at the retreat, Mr. Kolawole Ajuwon, FCA, former Bursar, University of Ibadan, while delivering his paper titled: *Budgeting Control as a Tool in Strategic Planning* said the University's budgeting provision must be in consonance with the vision and mission of the institution.

Mr. Ajuwon commended the University Management for publishing its weekly financial transaction in its *Campus News* and advised them to carry out appraisal analysis on the financial statement on a monthly basis.

In an exclusive chat with *Campus News* after the retreat the Vice-Chancellor designate of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala said the retreat came at the right time during the transition period to enable members of Council look at different issues that can be articulated for the development of the institution.

"The retreat is essential for us to look at where we are and where we want to go. We all agreed that the University





## Congratulations To Two Academic Titans

**O**n behalf of the entire members of the **University Sports Committee**, Federal University of Technology, Minna, I wish to felicitate with the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS on the successful completion of his tenure as the helmsman of this great citadel of learning.

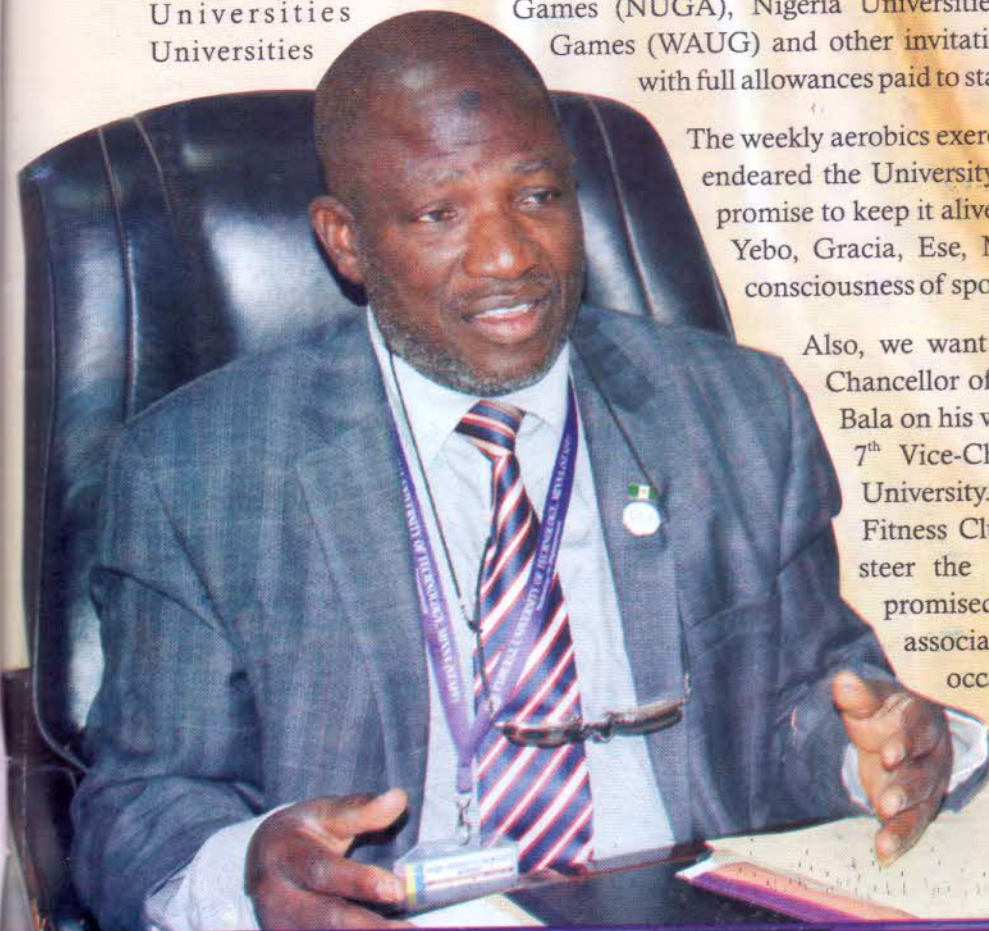
Within the last five years, you have taken the University to greater heights in terms of ranking, research, upgrade of facilities, especially sporting facilities at both campuses and strict adherence to the tenets of University laws and statutes.

We at the University Sports Committee are proud of your massive investment and support to the development of sports in the University. It is on record that FUT, Minna participated in all Nigerian Universities Games (NUGA), Nigeria Universities Staff Games, West African Universities Games (WAUG) and other invitational events during your tenure with full allowances paid to staff and students.

The weekly aerobics exercise which is your pet project has endeared the University with its host communities. We promise to keep it alive. Thank you, Mungode, Yin Jin Yebo, Gracia, Ese, Merci beaucoup for raising the consciousness of sports among staff and students.

Also, we want to congratulate the new Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala on his well-deserved appointment as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of this world class University. As a member of the University Fitness Club, we wish you success as you steer the ship of the University to the promised land. We are proud to be associated with you on this auspicious occasion in your life.

Once more, congratulations.



**Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS**  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

**Signed:**

**Prof. Abdulmojeed T. Ijaiya**  
Dean, Students' Affairs Division/Chairman,  
University Sports Committee & Former Nigerian International







*Participants in a group photograph after the retreat at the Barcelona Hotels, Abuja.*

**Cont'd from page 08**

has attained an enviable status in terms of ranking and what to do to improve on it," he stated.

Prof. Bala stated that the issue of infrastructural development would be pursued vigorously in line with the vision and mission of the University, adding that the University would explore the concept of entrepreneurial university system to address the problem of funding through research and development that would lead to commercialisation and enterprise.

He expressed satisfaction with the advice given to him by the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor at the retreat while assuring them that Management under his leadership would do everything possible to take the University to greater heights.

On the issue of revenue generation, Prof. Bala admitted that the University is underperforming in its revenue

drive, saying that his administration would explore the University's potential as a University of Technology to boost its revenue base through agricultural ventures and research that would lead to products for national development.

"The retreat has opened our eyes to the fact that most of the world universities do not get much from students tuition fees, but they generate more money from products of research and their association with government and industries," the scholar disclosed. The training tagged: Take a Lead was organised by a United State of America based Company, Global Business Management and New InfoTech Consultants.

## VC Flags Off Re-Constructed University Clinic

The newly re-constructed University Clinic of the Bosso Campus, Federal University of Technology, Minna, has been flagged off.

The Clinic was burnt down in the wake of the students reaction to the unfortunate occurrence where a student slumped and died while playing football mid February this year.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, while speaking at the event said that without doubt, the unrest had a lot of consequences ranging from the abrupt disruption of the semester to the unconventional arrangement of semesterial examination. It also caused additional burden to parents and guardians with regards to payment of restitution fees and the discomfort of setting up a temporary Clinic, he said, noting that all of these could have been avoided or minimised had emotions been properly managed.

The VC advised everyone, particularly the students, to embrace the virtue of throwing the path of peace and dialogue as the most logical route for resolution of grievances. He said it was a moment of sober reflection for the entire University and prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased student.

Prof. Akanji explained that the clinic has been reengineered to enhance functional and optimised space utilization, while noting that the annex has similarly undergone restructuring to



*VC, Prof. Akanji, PO's and committee members in a group photograph after the event.*

meet contemporary requirements of a compatible clinic.

He further expressed the University's appreciation to members of various committees who worked tirelessly to make the day come to pass while appreciating all stakeholders who contributed to the speedy return of the Clinic to its modernized status.

He said, in the spirit of transparency and openness which the University is known for, the account of income and expenditure as regards the restitution fees charged, would be made available for interested person(s) at the end of the Committees work.



## VC STRESSES NEED FOR SACRIFICE, AS CLINIC STAFF GET CEFE TRAINING

**P**oised to ensure service delivery with sustained stakeholder satisfaction at the University Health Services (UHS), the Management of the Federal University of Technology has organized a special training for all its health workers.

The training tagged “Positive Attitude to Work Using the CEFE Methodology” was done in two batches, two days each, at the Entrepreneurship Centre, Main Campus.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, emphasized the need for staff to pursue self development and as well impact on the lives of other people.

The VC who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Oluwole Morenikeji maintained that Nigeria needs a crop of people who are prepared to make sacrifice.

He noted that CEFE trainers' have high sense discipline and commended them for their commitment and dedication.

While thanking Management for the training, the Director, UHS, Dr. Uthman Adegoke, urged the University to broaden the scope of the training to include leadership training



*Prof. Akanji*

for many staff members that are approaching leadership positions to avoid situations where people would take up responsibilities they were not prepared for.

Commenting, CEFE Lead Trainer, Prof. Olufunmilayo Akanya stated that their driving force as trainers was the desire to see men and women change for the better.

In a chat with Campus News shortly after the programme, Coordinator, Competency based Economies through the Formation of Enterprise (CEFE), Dr. Caroline Alenoghena explained that the training involved practical sessions of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and simulation of hotel worker customer interactions using a hypothetical title of “Endangered Hotels,” where some of the participants took on roles of guests, while others acted as staff of three different hotels.

One of the participants, Dr.

Abdulsalam Abdulfatah described the training as interesting, noting that it opened their eyes to the need for networking and building partnerships. He commended the CEFE trainers for their high level of competence during the training. “

We are not leaving here the way we came,” he said, thanking the University Management for giving them the opportunity to have the training and calling for more of such.

On her part, Dr. Amaka Mgbemena who commended the trainers for being passionate about the job, said the training would lead to positive changes in their service delivery.

All cadres of staff at the UHS, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, laboratory scientists and technologists among others participated at the training.

The participants were issued certificates of participation at the end of the exercise.



# Felicitation!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, shareholders and staff of

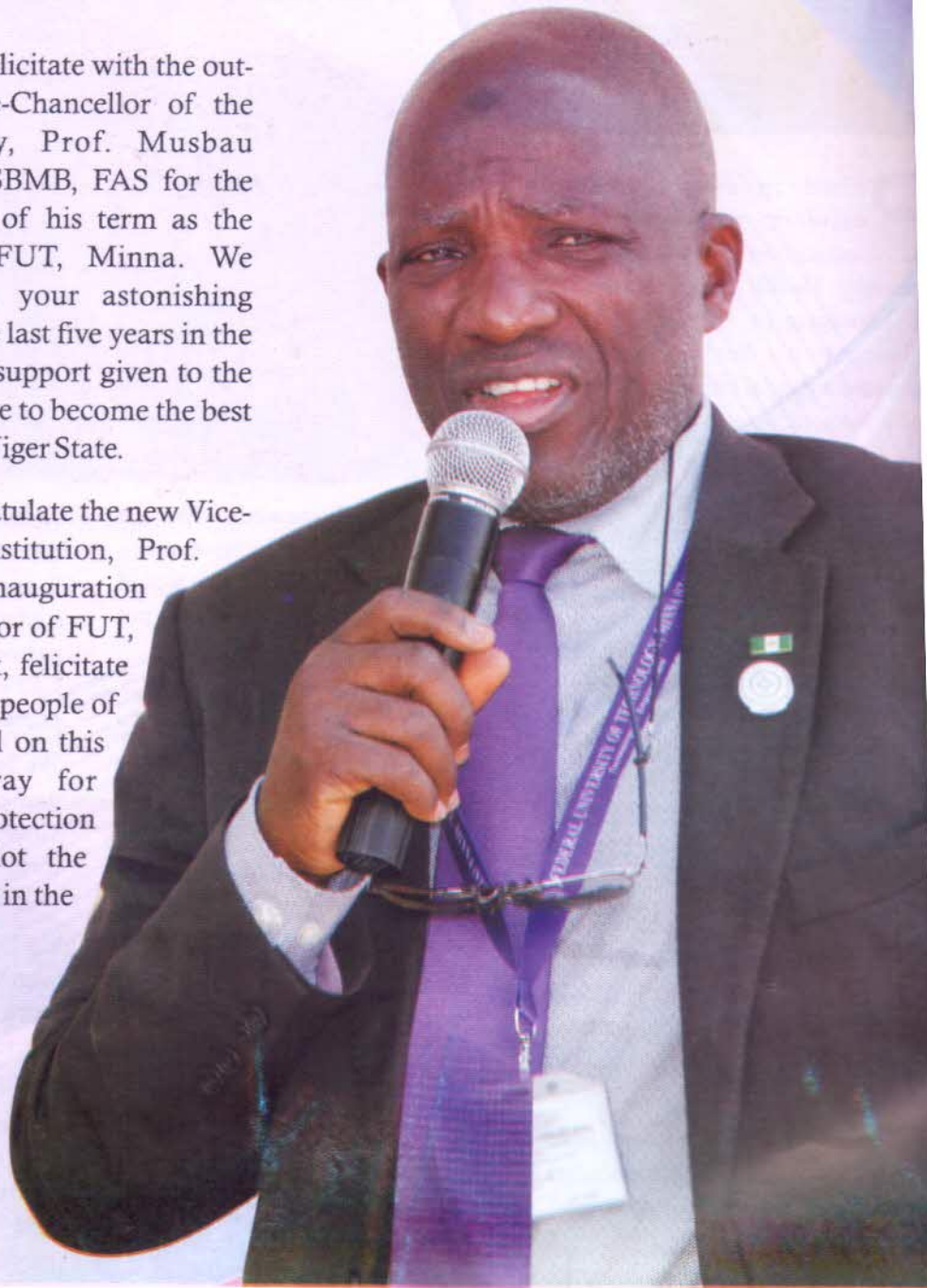


## FUTMINNA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED

**W**e wish to felicitate with the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS for the successful completion of his term as the Vice-Chancellor of FUT, Minna. We congratulate you on your astonishing accomplishments in the last five years in the University and for the support given to the bank in its strategic drive to become the best Microfinance Bank in Niger State.

Also, we wish to congratulate the new Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala on his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of FUT, Minna. We at the bank, felicitate with you and the entire people of Suleja Emirate Council on this appointment and pray for Allah's guidance and protection upon you as you pilot the affairs of the University in the next five years.

Congratulations!



Signed:

Aminu Mohammed Ashafa  
Ag. MD



appointment was ordained by God. One could pardon them because at that point in time, they acted out of ignorance.

The age-long saying that after the storm comes the rain is apt to describe how Prof. Akanji was able to change people's perception about his appointment. The courtesy visits to notable personalities in the State and the openness of his administration were key to changing what hitherto was hostility to acceptance within two months in office.

Despite the agitation that greeted his appointment, Prof. Akanji extended his hands of fellowship to some of the contestants within the University. The inclusiveness of his administration stands him out among many. Prof. Akanji is a detribalized Nigerian and exemplary leader with a firm belief in merit as against any other primordial considerations. He treats all issues on merit, devoid of ethnic, religious or tribal sentiments. He is a man who believes that the best man should get the job, irrespective of his/her tribe or religion. This policy, to some extent, is responsible for the landmark achievements recorded by the University in the last five years.

For those who believed and saw Prof. Akanji as the messiah that would take FUT, Minna to greater heights among comity of universities in Nigeria and the world at large, in 2012 when he was appointed as Vice-Chancellor, they have been vindicated based on the milestones recorded by the University in the last five years under his leadership.

As a Vice-Chancellor that has his people at heart, he operated "an open door" policy. This style reduced the administrative bottlenecks that usually characterize such offices in Nigeria university system. His humility and simplicity of purpose are second to none.

As a foremost Biochemist with numerous publications in reputable journals, Prof. Akanji has contributed immensely in manpower development across various sectors of the country. He has trained many researchers who are now professors and have also trained other professioners who are now adding value to the quality of education in Nigeria and other countries.

Prof. Akanji's induction as a Fellow of Academy of Science in 2016 brought the name of the University to the limelight again for good, judging from the revered nature of the award and its credible selection processes based on empirical research breakthrough. As Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in the last five years, he has brought honour to the University based on his dealings within and outside the



institution. It would not be out of place to describe Prof. Akanji's tenure as a blessed reign that is devoid of blemish and corruption.

He is an incorruptible leader to the core and one of the few Vice-Chancellors in Nigeria who have made their financial transactions public. This has been demonstrated through the publication of the University's weekly financial transaction on its Campus News, the University official news bulletin. This singular act has endeared him to staff, students and other stakeholders in the country.

When the history of the University would be told in many years from now, Prof. Akanji is assured of a place in that history book. Based on his massive transformation in the infrastructural landscape of the University, research, staff training, promotion, welfare and ease of running a university. His template of running the affairs of the institution is novel and should be emulated by other Vice-Chancellors in Nigerian Universities. From 2012 to 2017, it has been evolving stories of projects commissioning and foundation laying ceremonies of key projects that have added value to learning, teaching and research. It is not surprising that Prof. Akanji has bowed out as Vice-Chancellor of the University without any trace of abandoned projects.

Despite the well-known problem of funding that has affected the effective running of most universities in Nigeria in recent times, Prof. Akanji can hold his head high among comity of Vice-Chancellors in Nigeria based on the numerous projects and policies that were initiated and executed by him before the expiration of his tenure.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Academic & Professional Accreditation

The issue of academic accreditation of programmes in Nigerian universities has not been given the much needed priority in the past which has resulted in many universities floating programmes without taking into cognizance the





# STUDENTS' UNION GOVERNMENT (SUG)

Federal University of Technology, Minna

P.M.B 65 Minna, Niger State

MOTTO: ALUTA POUR L'EXCELLENCE



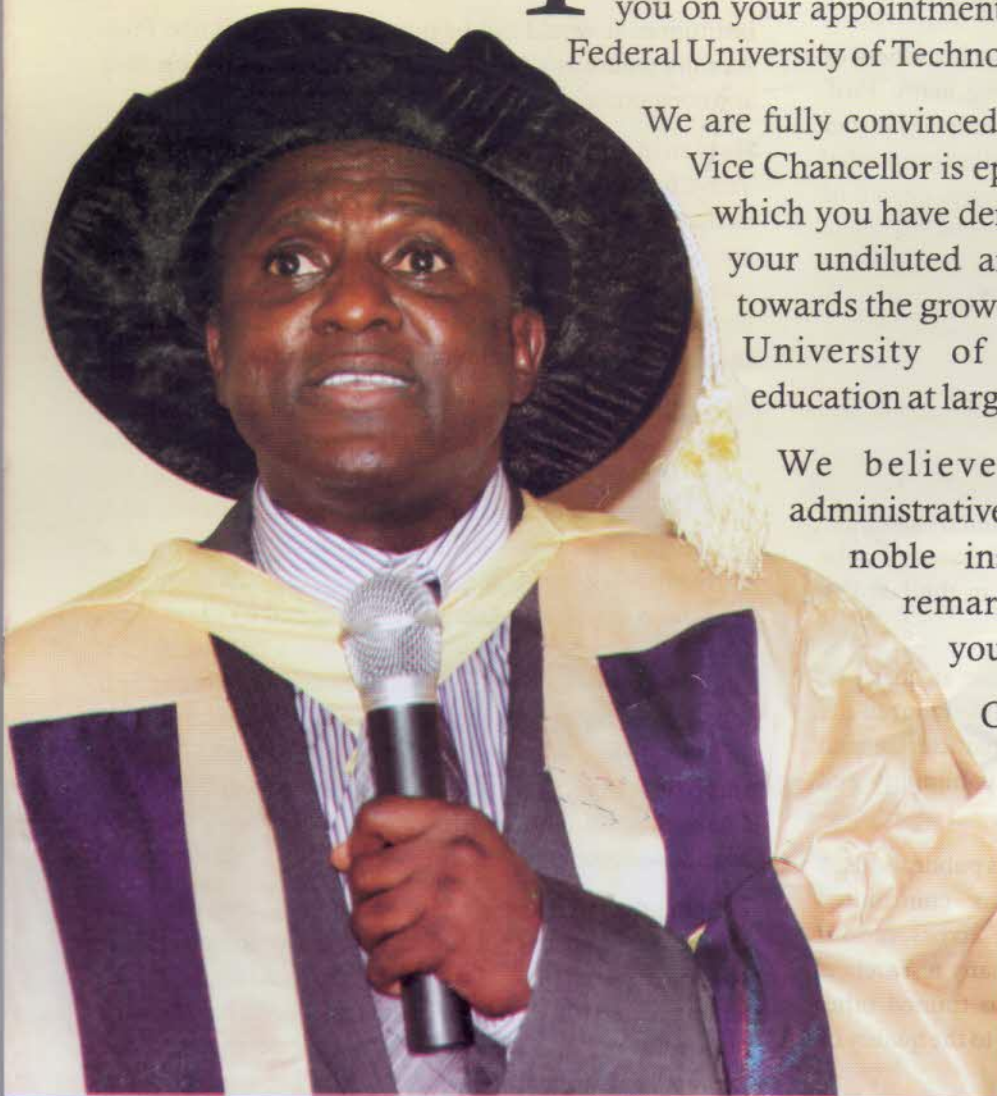
## *Congratulatory Message*

**T**he Student Union Government on behalf of the over 18,000 students write to convey our sincere felicitation to you on your appointment as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Minna

We are fully convinced that your appointment as the Vice Chancellor is epitome of merit and hard work which you have demonstrated over the years with your undiluted and unsurpassed contributions towards the growth and development of Federal University of Technology, Minna and education at large.

We believe that the educational, administrative and academic standard of our noble institution will experience a remarkable improvement during your tenure.

Once again, congratulations Sir.



Prof. Abdullahi Bala



Signed: Hamzat Lateef Abimbola  
SUG President



## FUTMINNA GETS NEW VC

**T**he Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna has approved the appointment of Prof. Abdullahi Bala of the Department of Soil Science and Land Management, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The appointment was approved by Council during its 125th Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at the end of the Council's consideration of the recommendation of the selection Committee.

According to a letter signed by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle, the appointment is for a single term of five years with effect from Sunday, December 3, 2017.

A top rate scientist whose academic life and contributions to society are marked by excellence, Bala was born on March 27, 1967 in his hometown, Suleja, in Niger State. He attended Dawaki Primary School, Suleja, from 1973 to 1979, clinching the first position out of 85 pupils. From 1979 to 1984, he attended Federal Government College, Minna, became Senior Prefect the school and passed out with a distinction in the General Certificate of Education (GCE) O'Level.

Between 1984 and 1985, he was at the School of Basic Studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for his IJMB/A-Levels. He graduated from ABU in 1989 with a Bachelor of Agriculture degree, First Class Honours. In 1992, he won a Common Wealth Academic Staff Scholarship for a Master's degree in Soil Chemistry at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Another Common Wealth Scholarship took him to Wye College, University of London, from 1995 to 1999, where he bagged a PhD in Soil Microbiology.

He participated in the mandatory one year National Youth Service Scheme in Plateau State between 1989 and 1990 where he worked as Farm Manager, NYSC Farm, and also as Assistant Community Development Officer at the NYSC Secretariat, Jos.

His working career began on January 10, 1991 when he joined the services of the Federal University of Technology, Minna as an Assistant Lecturer in the department of Soil Science and progressed steadily to the rank of professor of Soil Science on October 1, 2010.

Indeed, gold fish have no hiding place. In the course of his career in the University, Prof. Bala has been well sought after from outside. For instance, between 2004 and 2007, he went on leave of absence when *Africare Nigeria*, an international NGO engaged him as Associate Policy



Prof. Bala

Analyst at the Independent Policy Group, a policy think-tank for the then President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo. In that capacity, he conducted perspective and introspective studies for policy analysis into agriculture, water resources and environment, rural development and science and technology and had regular interactions and brainstorming with the President among other things.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan recruited him between 2010 and 2012 as international scientist based at the Institutes sub-station in Kano. While there, he served in three capacities:

1. Inoculant Delivery Specialist
2. West Africa Coordinator of N2Africa Project and
3. Rhizobiology Thematic Leader for N2Africa Project in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe

At the N2Africa Project in 2010 and 2011, Prof. Bala successfully coordinated, for the first time ever,



Cont'd from page 15

procurement and supply of rhizobial inoculants for use in large scale demonstration of inoculants technology to farmers in Nigeria.

He also led in legume technology dissemination campaigns in 60 communities, involving 13, 000 households in Nigeria, amongst many other achievements.

Prof. Bala has also served as external assessor of professorial candidates in the following universities: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto; Bayero University, Kano; University of Benin and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi. He has also served as external examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate students for the University of Ibadan and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

In addition to teaching many courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, he has supervised many B. Tech, PGD and M.Tech students as well as seven PhDs.

His administrative experience in the Federal University of Technology, Minna is very wide as he has served in more than 60 committees, chairing close to half of them. He was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), 2012 - 2013 and later Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Academic) 2013 - 2016.

Prior to that, he was Director, Centre for Preliminary and Extra-Mural Studies (2008 -2009) and Head of Department, Soil Science (2008-2009).

Prof. Bala is very passionate about the FUT, Minna. As early as 1995, he donated 132 volumes of Biochemistry Journals to the University. He has further donated dozens of books and equipment, just as he has attracted grants worth millions of naira to the University.

He has to his credit about 60 publications in journals, conference proceedings; 25 monographs and technical reports; 33 edited abstracts and conference papers; eight newsletter articles and several edited books and chapters in books. He has also attended about 70 local and international conferences, seminars and workshops.

He is a member of many professional bodies within and outside the country namely: International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN), American Society for Agronomy (ASA) amongst others. He is a Fellow, Soil Science Society of Nigeria.

His hobbies are reading literature of varied interests, playing volleyball and watching football.

Prof. Bala is happily married and blessed with children.

## FUTMINNA, FED POLY, OFFA SIGN MOU

The Federal University of Technology, Minna and the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, Kwara State are to partner in the area of research, training and capacity building.

This agreement was reached during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the Council Chamber, Main Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, while speaking at the brief ceremony commended the Management of Federal Polytechnic, Offa for the bold step, saying that the affiliation would further push the institution up the ranking scale of Polytechnics. He encouraged the Management of the Polytechnic to join international organisations in terms of peer review, which would enable them to learn and copy new ideas from other institutions.

Prof Akanji congratulated the

Polytechnic, saying that the new agreement which is a direct move to play a major role in the training of skilled and innovative workforce which is expected to positively transform the economy of the country, noting that the success of the MoU is the success of both institutions.

Responding, the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Lateef Ademola Olatunji expressed delight at the collaboration considering the fact that in ranking of specialized universities in the country FUT, Minna occupying 1<sup>st</sup> position in specialized University in the country and 5th position out of 153 Universities in Nigeria.

Dr. Olatunji

while thanking the Vice-Chancellor for the opportunity given to the polytechnic assured FUT, Minna that they would take the MoU seriously while promising to adhere to all the conditions attached to it and make success out of it.

Speaking earlier, the Director, Collaboration, Affiliation and Linkages, Prof. Emmanuel Udensi said the process for a workable MoU between the University and the Federal Polytechnic, Offa has been on for a while which has now resulted



L-R: Prof. Akanji presenting a signed copy of the MoU to the Rector, Dr. Olatunji





*Congratulations!*



**The Head of Department and the entire staff of the Telecommunication Engineering Department is congratulating the outgoing Vice-Chancellor Professor Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB for a successful peace-laden five (5) year tenure.**



**And at the same time, heartily welcoming the new Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdullahi Bala and wishing him God's guidance throughout his tenure.**

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*



## Special Interview

# I HAVE THRUST FUTMINNA INTO GLOBAL RECKONING -PROF AKANJI

Outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna is an engaging man. As he bows out after five years at the helm of affairs as the helmsman of the University, he bares his mind on his stewardship in an exclusive interview with *FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER*. Excerpts:



***FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:*** You have been here for about five years. How would you describe the experience?

***AKANJI:*** The experience is a mixed grill. There are moments that are very nice and there are moments that are

ordinary and there are trying moments; so it's a mixed grill. It has not been smooth for the past five years.

***FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:*** What actually attracted you to FUT, Minna?



## Emir of Kano Lauds FUTMinna, Gives Kudos To Council



Emir of Kano, HRH. Alh. Muhammadu Sanusi II (6th from left), VC (5th from left) and members of University Muslim community in a group photograph.

The Emir of Kano, HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II, CON has described the Federal University of Technology, Minna, as a foremost institution with research and innovation as its hallmark.

The Emir made the remark while receiving a delegation of the University Muslim Community which was in his palace for a thank-you-visit. The team, led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, comprised the University's Executive Committee of the Muslim Community.

According to the team, the visit was in the best tradition of African culture to show appreciation to the Emir for honouring their invitation during the commissioning of its ultra-modern Jumuah Mosque in January this year.

The Vice Chancellor, who spoke on behalf of the team, said the Emir's presence at the commissioning, the

singular honour of leading the first Friday prayers in the mosque after its inauguration and his sermon on peaceful co-existence of all faiths, had elevated Islam and gingered up all adherents of Islamic faith in the University to further dedicate themselves to Allah. He thereafter, delivered the goodwill messages of the immediate past and in-coming Councils of the University.

Responding, Emir Sanusi posited that for the country to become competitive in the global economy, she must explore, exploit and utilize science and technological innovations through her higher education and research institutions. He urged education managers across the universities to discover challenges that are peculiar to their system and address it systematically to enable them fulfill their mandate.

The Emir said he had overtime apprised himself with the Federal University of Technology, Minna and

its Governing Council, noting that the University has remained in the vanguard of technology education in the country. He particularly gave kudos to the Professor Rufa'i Ahmed Alkali-led immediate-past Governing Council for its selfless service to the University and for putting in place policies, structures, and processes that made for effective management and service delivery.

While describing the former Chairman of the Council as a versatile administrator, he said, "Professor Alkali is a very hardworking and intelligent man, who loves education to no end. He left good legacies, which the incoming Council must build on."

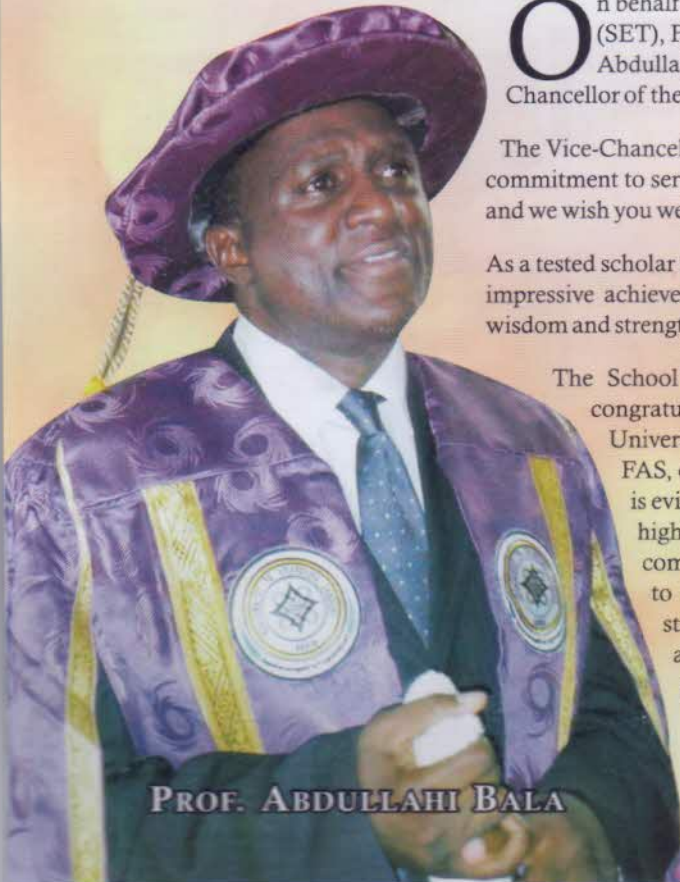
Fortunately, he said, "The in-coming Chairman, Professor Olufemi Odekunle, my former teacher, is a highly cerebral academic who is up to the task. I am sure he will help the University to re-strategize for the future."





# Federal University of Technology, Minna School of Environmental Technology (SET)

## GOODWILL MESSAGE



**PROF. ABDULLAHI BALA**

**O**n behalf of the entire staff and students of the School of Environmental Technology (SET), Federal University of Technology, Minna, I wish to heartily rejoice with Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The Vice-Chancellor Sir, your appointment is a reward for hard work, dedication, passion and commitment to service delivery. We are glad that you are coming on board to a familiar terrain and we wish you well in your quest to make FUT, Minna a world class citadel of learning.

As a tested scholar and administrator, we have no doubt that you will sustain and build upon the impressive achievements of your predecessor. In doing that, we wish you Allah's guidance, wisdom and strength to provide the much needed leadership for our great institution.

The School of Environmental Technology also wish to congratulate the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, on the successful completion of his tenure. Sir, it is evidently clear that you have placed FUT Minna on higher national and international ranking among comity of Universities. The University will continue to remember you for the giant developmental strides and for reawakening the culture of academics in the University. We wish you Allah's guidance and success in your future career.



*Signed* **Prof. A. M. Junaid**  
Dean, School of Environmental Technology

## Congratulations to a Silent Achiever

**O**n behalf of the Local Education Authority (LGEA), Suleja Local Governemnt Area, Niger State, I wish to congratulate our own, **Professor Abdullahi Bala FSSN** (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on his well-deserved elevation as the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

No doubt, this appointment came as a result of your prolific credentials, selfless and unquantifiable service to our community and humanity at large. While we share this joy with you, we must beseech Allah (SWT) to guide you and protect you in the discharge of this responsibility.

Once more, congratulations



*Signed:*  
**Hajia Karima Dahiru**  
Education Secretary, Suleja LGA, Niger State.



**PROF. ABDULLAHI BALA**



**Cont'd from page 13**

National Universities Commission (NUC) guideline. This has culminated in many public and private universities in Nigeria running programmes that are not accredited and thus subjecting students to psychological and emotional trauma before graduation. FUT, Minna case is different because as a university of Technology, we need both academic and professional accreditations for most of our programmes. Under the administration of Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji the university has enjoyed full accreditation status for all the courses offered. As a former Director, Academic Planning, at the University of Ilorin, Prof. Akanji understands the importance of accreditation status and he brought his wealth of experience to bear in ensuring that all the departments in the University run programmes that are accredited by NUC. The University's Academic Planning Unit has also enjoyed huge support from the Vice-Chancellor during all accreditation visits by NUC assessors. Little wonder why FUT, Minna came to the rescue of University of Abuja in 2013 to address the problem of non-accreditation of some of its programmes, especially its Engineering programmes.

#### **Infrastructural Development**

No doubt, the last five years of Prof. Akanji has witnessed impressive infrastructural upgrade that cut across different Schools in the University. The level of the University's infrastructural impediments in 2012 was sorely perceptible despite successive administrations efforts in addressing the problem. Due to poor funding and inability to access the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) largesse for project construction as well as other critical areas. Before his assumption of duty, the University was faced with accommodation problem. The hostels at the Bosso and Gidan Kwano campuses could only provide 2,550 bed spaces for students, thereby making over 75 percentage of the students to live from Off-Campus. Considerable efforts were made in the past by former Vice-Chancellors to address the problem with series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreements that were signed with private firms that

did not see the light of day.

Through the Presidential Needs Assessment Fund, Prof. Akanji was able to build a world class student hostels that is second to none in Nigerian universities. This hostel building has been described by many as "5-Star hostel". The two blocks of hostels boasts state-of-the-art-facilities. The project was commissioned by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, who was represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Rasheed Abubakar during the University's 26<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony and 34<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day celebration.

To address the perennial water problem faced by students at the Gidan Kwano campus of the university, the Vice-Chancellor in 2016 flagged off the construction of Earth Dam to provide water and electricity supply for the University. The project is being funded by the Federal Government. The pace of construction work at the site is marvelous and the project would soon be completed. Other construction projects initiated and completed by Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji through Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and TETFUND interventions in the last five years include;

- b) The Entrepreneurship Centre built through TETFUND support
- c) 2 blocks of classrooms for the School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology
- d) Lecture Theatre for the School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology
- e) Upgrade of the University sporting facilities on both campuses
- f) Construction of 3 blocks of a 500 capacity Electronic Test Centre that are well equipped with computers and ICT facilities. The E-Exam Centre of the University is the largest in Niger State
- g) Construction of the Second Phase of School Engineering and Engineering Technology (on-going).
- h) Construction of office block for the University Security Unit
- i) Construction of Research Farm for School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology
- j) Construction of second phase of School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT)
- k) Supervision of the University Mosque built from contributions from



**Cont'd in page 44**



# PROF AKANJI FLAGS OFF FREE ICT TRAINING

... Emir of Suleja Commends FUTMinna

In furtherance of the University's quest towards bridging the gap between town and gown as well as contributing to the development of Niger State, the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, has flagged off a 5-day free Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training for 100 youths selected from Tafa, Suleja and Gurara local government areas of the State.

The training titled: Computer Fundamentals and the Internet of Things Overview commenced on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at the FUT, Minna Study Centre, Suleja.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by other Principal Officers of the University said the free ICT training was geared at equipping youths in the State with the pre-requisite ICT knowledge needed in the 21st century to excel in life, adding that the University is committed to training of skilled manpower that would transform the natural resources of the country.

Prof. Akanji stated that the world is driven by ICT and urged the participants to take the training serious in order to earn the University certificate. He disclosed that the institution's ICT experts would put them through all the nitty-gritty of ICT and computer usage.

"With this training, we have formed a friendship with you and we will monitor your progress after this training," the VC stated.

The Don expressed appreciation to the Suleja Emirate Council for donating the Study Centre to the University and assured them that the University is doing everything possible towards ensuring that the Centre is put into active use.

Delivering his address, the Emir of Suleja, HRH. Mallam Muhammadu Awwal Ibrahim, CON commended the University for initiating the free ICT programme for some selected youths in the State, adding that the Emirate Council is pleased with the community development

programme of the University.

The Emir who was represented by the District Head of Bagama, Alhaji M.B. Yunusa stated that the free ICT training introduced by the University would make the youths in the State to be fully engaged towards contributing their quota to the development of the State and the country at large.

The Royal Father advised the youths to pay rapt attention to the training, noting that the ICT training has the power to improve their fortunes in life and urged them to take full advantage of the training to enhance their skills.

"You must be good ambassadors of this Emirate Council and the State. Remember that many people wanted to be here but they could not; you should count yourselves lucky. I expect you all to gain the knowledge and use it to better the community," the Monarch urged.

In his goodwill message, the Vice-Chancellor designate of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala congratulated the participants, adding that the training is a mark of promise being delivered by the University.

Prof. Bala informed participants that FUT, Minna is one of the leading universities in Nigeria, saying that the University is first among specialised universities in Nigeria, fifth in Nigeria and 45th in Africa.

He stated that the participants are lucky to have the University certificate and urged them to use the training to improve their knowledge of ICT.

The VC designate applauded the participants for being worthy ambassadors of the Suleja Emirate Council and prayed that the training would bring a source of employment for them.

Also speaking at the event, the former Deputy Chief Whip, House of Representatives, Hon. Engr. Mukhtar Mohammed Ahmed thanked the University for giving back to the community through the free ICT training, while disclosing that the training would go a long way in empowering the youths of the State.

Earlier in his opening remark, the Ag. Director, Information and Technology Services (ITS), FUT, Minna, Dr. Adamu Mohammed said the free ICT training was aimed at developing the ICT and computer knowledge of the participants so that they would be useful to the society. He disclosed that the training is

part of the University's corporate social responsibility to the three selected local government areas of the State.

Dr. Adamu encouraged the participants to take full advantage of the training to improve their skills of ICT by being attentive during the training while expressing appreciation to the University Management for supporting the programme.

The 5-day free ICT training was organised by the ITS Unit of the University.



The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Akanji, POs and other dignitaries in a group photograph with the participants after the flag-off ceremony.



## FUT/Minna Donates Police Outpost To Host Community



Niger State Commissioner of Police, Mu'azu (2nd left) flagging off the Police outpost supported by VC, Prof. Akanji (Left), while Dagachin Gidan Kwano Alh. Mohammed (3rd left) looks on with smiles

**D**esirous of the need to reduce crime rate as well as ensure safety of lives and property within the University host community, the Federal University of Technology, Minna has donated a well-furnished Police outpost to its host community.

The project was flagged off by the Niger State Commissioner of Police, Zubairu Mu'azu on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at the Gidan Kwano Village.

Speaking before flagging off the project, the Police boss said the project is a great gift to mark his one year anniversary as Commissioner of Police in Niger State, adding that the relationship between the University and the Police has been cordial.

"I must confess that FUT, Minna is the most Police friendly higher institution in the state," the Commissioner disclosed.

The Commissioner commended the University Management for the kind

gesture while assuring them that the outpost would serve the purpose for which it was established.

"I have directed the immediate posting of Police officers to man this outpost for it to take off without delay as this will go a long way in checkmating criminal activities within the University community and its environs," he stated.

He disclosed that the donation was the first of its kind in the state and urged other corporate organisations in the state to emulate what FUT, Minna has done.

The Police boss admonished students of the University to focus on their studies and shun all forms of criminality, especially cultism, drug abuse and other social vices that are inimical to their education.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, stated that the project is dear to the

University in view of the need to address the incessant cases of robbery attacks on students within the community as majority of the students live outside the campus.

Prof. Akanji called on the students to be conscious of their environment and be law abiding citizens in order to ensure peaceful coexistence in the community.

The Vice-Chancellor assured the Nigeria Police that the University would do everything possible within its capacity to support them to fully discharge their duties in the community.

He further expressed appreciation to the Police Commissioner for finding time out of his busy schedule to flag off the project.

The Police outpost is now under the direct supervision of the DPO in charge of Kpakungu division.



## Goodwill Message

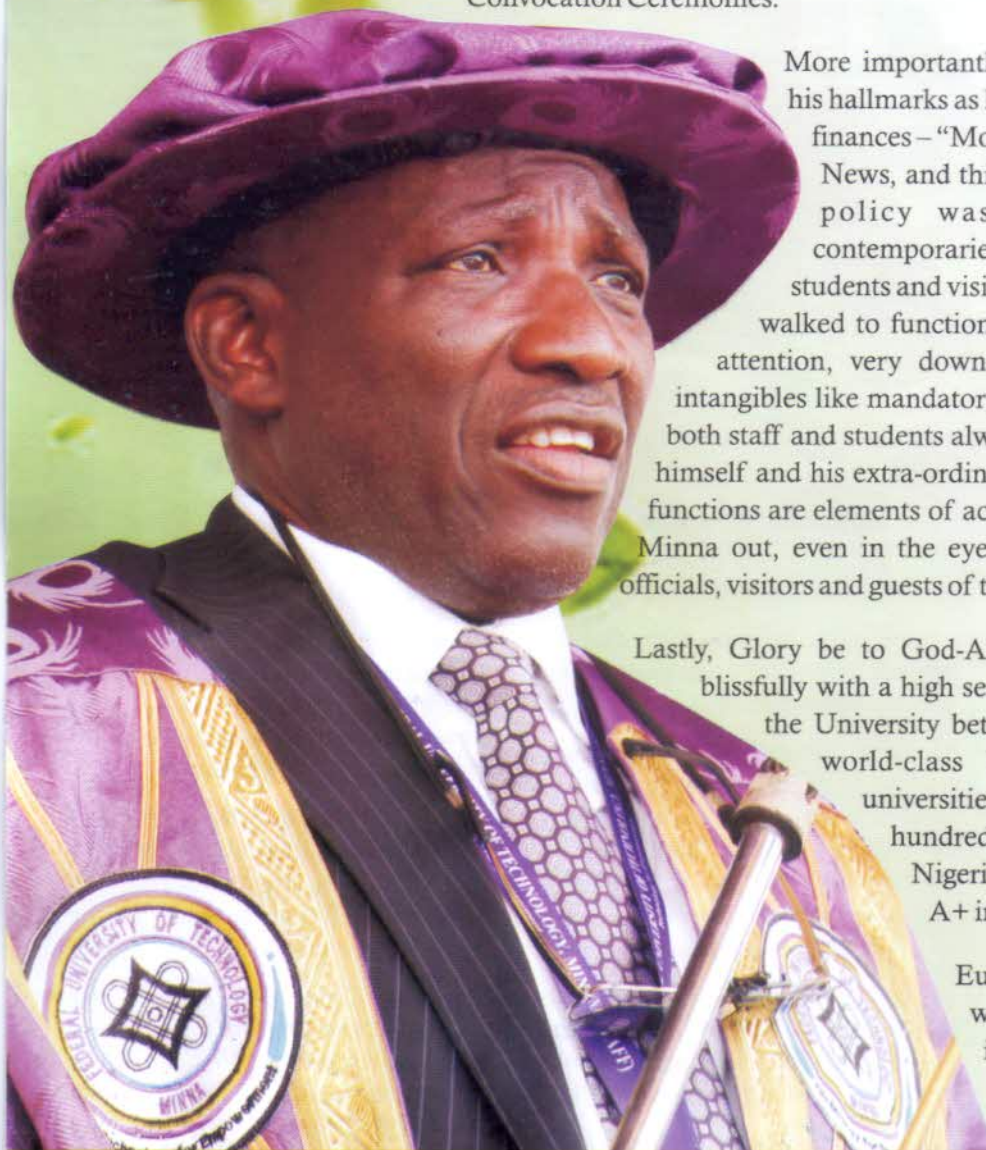
The tenure of our beloved Vice-Chancellor, Professor Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS (2012-2017) has been a very eventful and a memorable one with many milestones. He came, he saw and by the Grace of the Almighty God, he conquered.

He has taken the University to the level of his desire, an enviable height in a comity of citadels of learning in Nigeria. Upon assumption of office in 2012, he promised to put the University on "Auto-run" where things are done seamlessly. Examinations and records operations have been so computerized such that transcripts are timely issued on demand and degree certificates issued at Convocation Ceremonies.

More importantly, probity and accountability were his hallmarks as he rendered weekly highlights of our finances – "Money Matters" in our weekly Campus News, and this is unprecedented. His open door policy was unparalleled amongst his contemporaries, as he is very accessible to staff, students and visitors to the University alike. He freely walked to functions in the University without special attention, very down to earth. In addition, important intangibles like mandatory wearing of Identification Card by both staff and students always while on the campus, including himself and his extra-ordinary sense of time – timeliness at all functions are elements of academic culture that has stood FUT, Minna out, even in the eyes of state and federal government officials, visitors and guests of the University.

Lastly, Glory be to God-Almighty that his tenure is ending blissfully with a high sense of fulfillment, that he is leaving the University better than he met it – a legacy of a world-class University, first ranked of the universities of technology, fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) of one hundred and fifty four (154) universities in Nigeria, with our Institutional Ranking of A+ intact.

Eureka, for a mission accomplished, as we all wish you greater lofty heights in your future endeavours – "—for our love for you won't seize".



**Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS**  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

*Signed*

**Prof. Suleiman O.E. SADIKU**  
(Former DVC – Administration)





**AKANJI:** I don't know how to respond to that question because when the advertisement was made I did not apply to FUT, Minna to be its Vice-Chancellor. The advert came out about the same time with that of University of Ilorin. I have been working at the University of Ilorin since 1986, most of my administrative experience in Nigerian university system was obtainable at the University of Ilorin, so what I thought, and I did make attempt, I applied to the University of Ilorin to be its VC since it came out about two weeks interval. Minna came two weeks after. I am not a professional applicant and I felt I had a very good chance at University of Ilorin, so I did not apply to FUT, Minna. However I know FUT, Minna because I was a visiting lecturer here 91/92 and 92/93 sessions. So I know about FUT, Minna and then we meet outside professionally at various fora so I have people I know in FUT, Minna especially those in my field.

I did not intend to apply to FUT, Minna but due to circumstances, I failed in my attempt to become the VC at Ilorin then it coincided with the period they were about appointing a new VC for FUT, Minna and there is a provision in the appointment of VC for search team and I don't know what influenced their decision to contact me.

They came to University of Ilorin and searched me out. Then I was persuaded by some of my senior friends to apply. I did not put mind at all because I thought I had a very good chance at Ilorin. Having been disappointed, where I have been for 26 years, here where I have not been, I don't think there is any chance here but since I have to fulfill my destiny I submitted my application and the rest is now history.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *A university is built on a tripod in terms of mandate: teaching, research and community service. How would you say FUT, MINNA fared in this regard under your stewardship?*

**AKANJI:** In terms of teaching, we are doing very well because our students go out to win various awards. In terms of research, we are doing very well; we have been able to win research grants nationally and internationally. In terms of community service, we are above average, but we can improve in that aspect. The immediate host communities have not been feeling our impact as much as it should, but I believe frankly that we made the attempt, but for the most part, they were rebuffing our attempt. However, we have been able to overcome that aspect. I think in the next four years, you will see a jump up in that aspect especially. Our impact has been felt by the larger communities but a university must impact its immediate host community. We tried during the last administration, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu's tenure, we entered a memorandum of understanding, but the MoU did not

work. However, now, there is a change of mind. Recently, the government approached us with an intention that they want us to do some things for them.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *VC Sir, when you assumed duty during address, you stated it categorically that your intention was to launch the University into international recognition. About five years after, have you fulfilled that promise?*

**AKANJI:** I would score my administration very high there. When I was putting together my application just before 2012, at the close of 2011, there was a programme that was introduced by NUC, they call it institutional accreditation where they look at the university. You know what we are familiar with is programme accreditation, but during institutional accreditation, they look at a university in totality, that is every aspect of life in the university. In that exercise, this University and the University of Ilorin scored "A" plus and no other university came close to that. It means we are doing well internally. But when you look at

the ranking, by 2012, we were number 28 in Nigeria. We were not even among the first 100 in Africa. We were not there at all. So, in writing my essay - because you usually write a vision statement when applying for the post of VC - the thrust of my essay was that I will launch the University internationally so that it will be known internationally. Without being immodest, by the last ranking, we are now the first specialised university in Nigeria, number five among all the 154 universities in the country and 45 in Africa.

We did not arrive here by magic; we did it gradually. From 28<sup>th</sup> position, we came to 15<sup>th</sup>, then to 11<sup>th</sup>, to 7<sup>th</sup> and from there we arrived at 5<sup>th</sup> and as we are improving nationally, it will be affecting our international recognition. So what I did was to establish a committee. I called it Web Content Committee because those who rank do not come here; they look at your presence in the web and I charged them to watch the University. It was headed then by a professor in Urban and Regional Planning. They worked, and I choose people from various aspects of the University. They really worked. They established the standard and we have been building on that standard till now. The advantage we have is that, across teaching and non-teaching strata of the University staff, we have people who are interested in the University. So we have been able to identify them, we task them from time to time and they do not disappoint us. So to answer your question I have largely fulfilled that promise.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Your assumption of duty witnessed some agitations in the host community. Please, tell us more.*

*'We did not arrive here by magic; we did it gradually. From 28<sup>th</sup> position, we came to 15<sup>th</sup>, then to 11<sup>th</sup>, to 7<sup>th</sup> and from there we arrived at 5<sup>th</sup> and as we are improving nationally, it will be affecting our international recognition.'*



**Cont'd from page 25**

It started from a sour point but it is now very, very cordial. You would recall that when I came, there was vehement opposition. They were not against me but against the fact that someone from outside the community would come to head the University here. They went to the extent of asking government, the presidency, to reverse the appointment but rightly the president refused. Coincidentally, the Federal University Otuoke was then headed by somebody from Ekiti State. So the president said even the one in his town is headed by somebody who is not from his state. But he looked at the process of emergence and he saw that the rules were followed. You cannot fault the system, you cannot fault the process, so he refused. Then they were looking at me with suspicion. According to them, they had a very rough time with the previous administration. I think they were right in their agitation but that the method used was wrong. So I understand their pains and I made it known to them. I have tremendous support from government of the day, from important people in the state. So I kept my doors open. By nature, I don't lie. It's either I don't talk to you or I tell you the truth, whether you like it or not, it's none of my business. So I promised that I will open my doors. Then, I visited all the people that contested, that wanted to be VC and I told them I have come here to work, if there is any

idea you have, you think it will be useful to the University, let me have it and I will implement it. You defend it and if I am convinced, I will implement it but I assured them that I don't have anything against anybody. Then more importantly, I made my administration totally inclusive; I don't discriminate. I think they gave me the benefit of the doubt, tested me and I guess when they were satisfied, they became my very good supporters. I have a feeling, I have a belief that those who criticize you are not necessarily your enemies; they may be your best friends. My philosophy is that if you see me doing what you believe is wrong, it is your responsibility to tell me. The only thing is that you should be sincere about it. As a principle, I don't inherit other people's enemies. I can inherit your friends. Before I classify you as an enemy, I will warn you. I will give you opportunity to change. I don't support the concept of enemy, I don't believe in it but I can just leave you to yourself. So when they saw that it appears I was genuine in my actions, I started bringing people from various divisions then into my circle. Those who opposed me then are part of my best friends now because they were not opposing me; they were opposing the system that brought me and they felt that the immediate past administration was not their friend and that any administration coming will not be theirs

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *In specific terms what are those areas you feel that the University under your stewardship impacted on the community directly?*

**AKANJI:** I am aware that we make our research findings available to farmers. I am aware that there are some infrastructural developments that the University facilitated such as roofing of the Gidan Kwano Primary School, donation of a police outpost and police community relationship.

We are lucky with the traditional leadership of our community because when they saw the genuineness of our intention, they adopted us as their children. So when we see a gap, what they need, within the context of what we have,



• Prof. Akanji



## PROF AKANJI COMMENDS FUTMINNA ALUMNI ...Bags Alumni Award

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, has commended the University alumni for being a worthy ambassadors of institution and for organising a successful Maiden Alumni Reunion programme.

The Vice-Chancellor made this disclosure during the 2017 FUT, Minna Alumni Reunion dinner held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi International Conference Centre, Minna, Niger State.

Prof. Akanji stated that the University is happy with the numerous commendations received from employers and government agencies on the performance of its alumni adding that the institution is very proud of their achievements in life.

The VC stated that alumni are the real owners of the University and urged them to show more interest in the activities of the institution. He also disclosed that the University is doing well among comity of universities in Nigeria based on the latest webo-metric and 4ICU rankings.

"I am pleased to inform you that FUT, Minna is now number 5 in 4ICU ranking and 45 in Africa out of over 4, 323 universities that were ranked by international organizations. We are also first in Nigeria among the specialised universities," Prof. Akanji stated.

He informed the alumni that the University has reengineered its transcript delivery process from three months to one week and that graduates of the University now get their certificates on the day of convocation. He further advised the

alumni to remember their alma mater by giving back to the University.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman, National Caretaker Committee of FUT, Minna Alumni, Dr. Mohammed Jiya expressed appreciation to all members of the University alumni for the sacrifices made for the event to take

impact of its alumni in no distant time. He commended the Local Organizing Committee for organising the event.

The event also witnessed the presentation of awards to all the past Vice-Chancellors and the present Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Akanji who was bestowed with



L-R: The Vice-Chancellor designate, Prof. Abdullahi Bala presenting an award to the VC, Prof. Akanji at the reunion dinner party

place despite the short notice, adding that the event has boosted the awareness level of the existence of FUT, Minna alumni.

The Chairman noted that the maiden edition of the Alumni Reunion programme was geared at reconnecting with the institution's graduates with the hope of building a robust alumni association that every graduate of the University would be proud of. He called for strong working relationship between the University Management and the Alumni.

Dr. Jiya disclosed that the body is committed to the development of the University while stating that the University would start feeling the

an award in recognition of his contributions to the development of the institution.

Others awarded at the event were some alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields of endeavour.

The 3-day event was rounded off with a tour of the Main Campus and a reunion picnic at the Students' Recreation Centre, Main Campus on Sunday, October 1, 2017. The theme of the 2017 FUT, Minna Alumni Retreat was: Creating Wealth Outside the Box:

Options for FUT, Minna Alumni.



## Goodwill Message

On behalf of the entire staff of the **Directorate of Collaboration, Affiliations & Linkages (DCAL)**, Federal University of Technology, Minna, I cordially felicitate with Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, (Walin Zazzau, S) on the event of his inauguration ceremony as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of this prestigious University.

Your appointment is well deserved, timely and a perfect reward for hard work and excellence. This appointment is also another attestation to your proven credentials as a top performer.

We have no doubt that you will use your wealth of experience garnered in the past years to advance the fortunes of FUT, Minna, and make it a global brand and a renowned citadel of learning. Your expertise would be sought after by captains of industry, global research institutes and Universities for partnership.

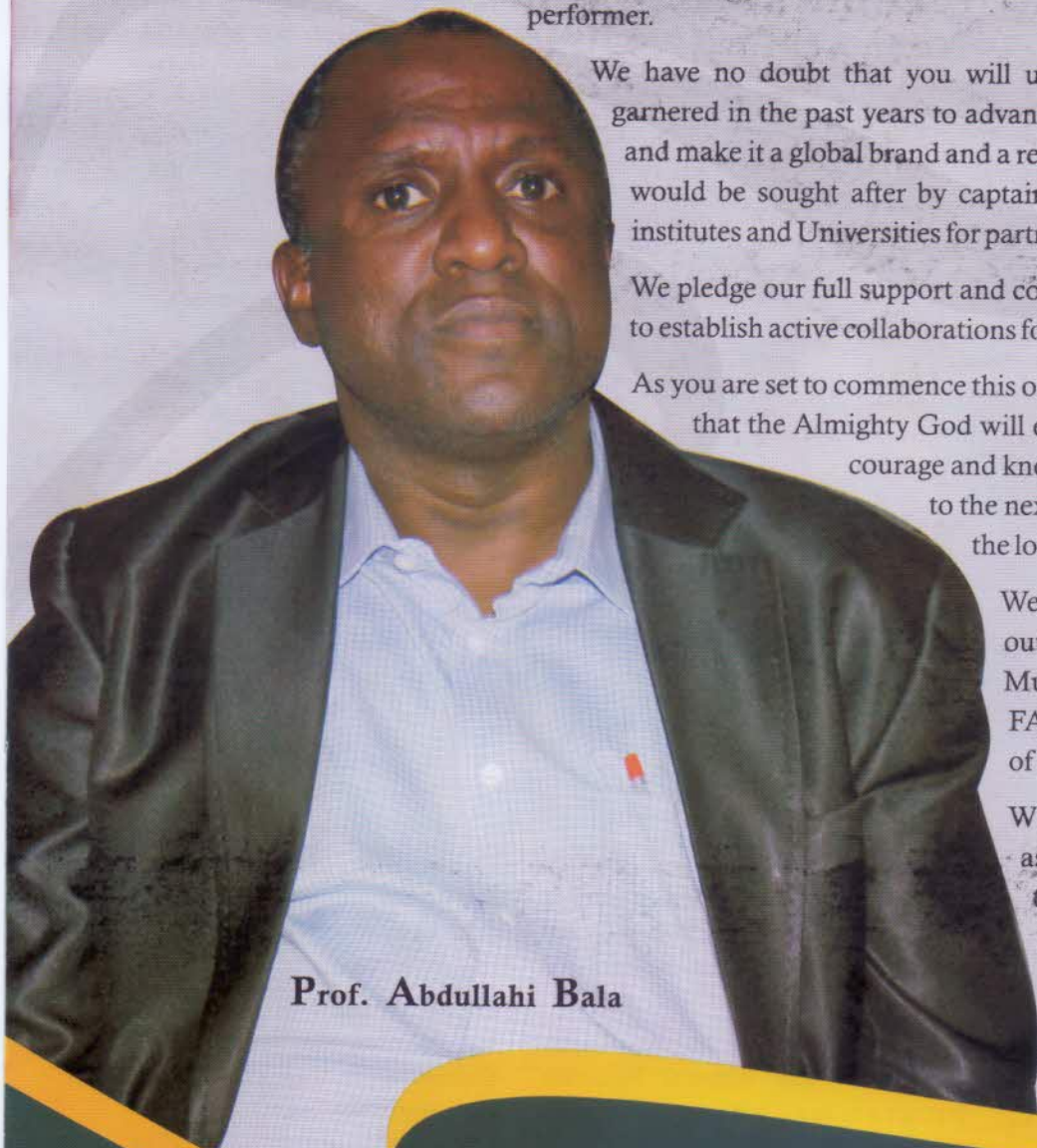
We pledge our full support and commitment to you in your quest to establish active collaborations for the University.

As you are set to commence this onerous task before you, we pray that the Almighty God will endow you with more wisdom, courage and knowledge to move the University to the next level of greatness in line with the lofty dreams its founders.

We also felicitate with our outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi, FNSI, FAS on the successful completion of his tenure.

We are proud of your astronomical contribution to the development of the University of Minna.

Congratulations!



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala**

Signed:

**Prof. E. E. Udensi, FNIP**  
Director, DCAL





## FUTMINNA AQUATRONICS EXCITES NIGERIANS AT TECHNOLOGY EXPO

Inventions and innovations from the Federal University of Technology, Minna has continued to generate interest among Nigerians. This time around, the Aquatronics, an auto-feeding-auto water recycling aquaculture system from the department of Water Resources Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology was the centre of attraction.

It was at the Technology and Innovation Expo 2017 where the University was among the 56 tertiary institutions invited by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

During the exhibition which held at the Eagle Square, Abuja, government officials, investors, civil servants and journalists who visited FUT, Minna stand commended the project and indicated interest in acquiring same.

The Seamless Data and Voice Connection using Multiple Operators-Enabled Sim (MOES) Card from the department of Mechatronics Engineering also caught the attention of many Nigerians at the exhibition.



Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu (3rd right) looks on with keen interest as Dr. Elizabeth Etherigho of the Department of Chemical Engineering explains some FUT, Minna products during the just concluded 2017 Technology and Innovation Expo last week in Abuja

Biofuels, cosmetic products and insecticides from the department of Chemical engineering were also showcased amongst 27 inventions and innovations the University exhibited.

Deputy Director, Directorate of Research Innovations and Development, Dr. Moses Olutoye

led the University delegation to the exhibition.

A total of 151 research institutes, tertiary institutions, technology entrepreneurs as well as Junior Engineers, Technologists and Scientists (JETS) participated in the EXPO.

## VC INAUGURATES CODEL GOVERNING BOARD

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, has inaugurated the Governing Board of the Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) of the University. The inauguration took place at the Vice-Chancellor's Conference Room, Main Campus. Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, who is the Chairman of the Board said the ceremony was a rejuvenation of the existing Board, adding that Management wants the Centre to be fully effective from 2017/2018 session while noting that Council is interested in seeing all Centres of the University in a functional state.

Prof. Akanji gave assurance that Management was willing to do everything possible to ensure that the Centre fully starts operation by 2017/2018 academic session.

He thanked other members of the Board for attending the ceremony while charging them to pay unscheduled periodic visits to the Centre in order to put the Centre on its toes to achieve its set goals.

The Director of the Centre, Prof. Abiodun Aibinu, said the essence of the Centre is to

provide access to higher education to a large number of interested students through e-learning, he highlighted the problems faced by the Centre and appealed to Management to look into them so as to ensure that the Centre takes off fully by next session.

Members of the Governing Board include: all the Principal Officers,

Directors of CODEL, Academic Planning Unit (APU), Information Technology Services (ITS), Legal Unit and also the HODs of Computer Science and Entrepreneurship and Business Studies. Others are the Deputy Director CODEL as well as the Secretary of the Centre.



The VC, Prof. Akanji speaking while inaugurating the CODEL governing board



we try to assist. Take Gidan Kwano for example. Gidan Kwano is a response to our population, meaning that the majority of the citizens living in Gidan Kwano are us, are our students. Meaning if there is any problem there, it will affect us more and that was why we sank a borehole for them, that was why we established a police post, that is why we contribute in paying vigilante, because we are the people living here, the real villagers are very few. When there is any disaster we respond. There was a time there was inter-communal fight, and we had internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the secondary school opposite Bosso campus. The two religious groups in the University contributed; then the University itself contributed materials and food. When I first came, every Sunday I would go round Gidan Kwano and Bosso campuses. I drove myself around to see what is happening. I saw a primary school within my first, two months here and I was shocked. The pupils were sitting on the bare floor. I came back and told my colleagues in Management. I now told my Director PPDU to go and look at it. We now repaired two class rooms and constructed furniture for them; because the pupils there are people who will lead this country tomorrow. We started like that, so they were very, very appreciative and very happy. We identify with their joy and we identify with their low moments because we are with them. We believe that we are part of them and it has assisted us.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *It is now common place in Nigerian university system to see vice chancellors being at loggerheads with the various unions on campus. How have you been able to manage the various unions in the last five years?*

**AKANJI:** I run an open administration. Every month during Senate meeting, I tell them about the financial health of the University; this is the money we have; this is what the money is for, for this one we don't have money and Bursar's office in collaboration with your office (Information and Publications Unit) was mandated within my first six months, to be publishing financial spending of the University. That really assisted us and I challenged the workers, please study this column. If, for instance, we say we bought ipad at N200 thousand and you feel it should be N100 thousand, come and challenge us. It's either we have stolen N100 thousand or the person that sold it to us has cheated us. Either way, we will not steal again or we will change our customer. I have encouraged people to come forward to make observations on the finances we publish so I can refer them to the Bursar for further explanation.

We have confidence that unionism is about welfare and we do not allow our staff to ask for what we think we can afford. For example, we noticed people are not careful about their health, and I think all of us are guilty of this. So we said they should come out for sports; they refused. We

*'We have confidence that unionism is about welfare and we do not allow our staff to ask for what we think we can afford.'*

instituted a system where everybody will go once a year to do free medical test. That one has really assisted us. I know about five people who detected what otherwise would have killed them without their knowing. So when we see such, we monitor them and give them money; we assist them financially. We don't play with what is due to them. But when they ask us what we cannot afford, we tell them why we cannot afford it. And they know we are forthright; we are genuine in our concern.

We have been lucky and I count myself lucky with the leadership of the unions we have. I do disagree with ASUU and the other three unions - NASU, SSANU, and NAAT. We disagree but to my mind, the way the disagreements are resolved is what matters. If you asked me in my opinion, the new leadership of ASUU is doing what union leaders should do. We understand ourselves, because I made them know that nobody can force me to do what is wrong. Being Vice-Chancellor is an opportunity. I have been lucky I have been Vice-Chancellor somewhere before, so it does not get into my head. Then I make both my house and my office available. Union leaders don't book

appointment. Both at home and in the office, I take visitors up to midnight. If have anybody visits, you should think that what they are bringing is important, because, sometimes we ask what you are bringing, is it important? If it's not important would they leave their house? So I allow people to see me on the streets. If they see me on the streets, and it is now necessary for details, we have to get to the office say the next day. Both students and staff, I am accessible to them. Of course, it will be abused once in a while, but if, out of 10 people, eight people abuse it, the other two people that didn't abuse it will gain from it. It has really assisted. I pick good information from such.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Sir would you say this robust relationship between you and the various unions is what made Management to allocate land to them to build their secretariats?*

**AKANJI:** No, it was in the master plan. Before I came it was in the University master plan. In the master plan, unions have an area opposite the church. So it was a case of when you are ready, you come and take possession. Before I came, I think ASUU was the first, before I came, they were given a grant of N2.5 million to assist them. So I had no choice; all others were also given. The principle is that you are helping to beautify campus. I am head of the campus and even the religious bodies, we assisted them, because they are adding to the structures on campus.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *You have said a lot on some aspects of welfare of members of the University community. We would like you to talk a little more on other aspects of welfare like staff training and promotions. How would you rate*





▪ Prof. Akanji during the interview

*it under your stewardship?*

**AKANJI:** Let us start with promotion. There is no university to my knowledge that is better than us today. I made it a point that April every year, call circular for promotion should be issued. All the administrative processes must be concluded so that by September, those who are promoted will know. They will now work into the new salary; there will not be arrears. But because of strike and disruption in calendar, for example, this year we are just about concluding promotions that we should have done before October. I have just received a request to assist in the 2014 promotion exercise of a university. Here, those who got promotion in 2014 are already due for another one and they have been considered. We don't have any arrears of promotion. If members of staff are happy, they will do their work. If they do their work, the University will progress. If the University progresses, they will praise the VC. If members of staff are not happy, they will not do their work; the work will suffer; the University will regress; the VC will then be seen as a non-achiever. So that is my philosophy. But in terms of training, we are beneficiary yearly of substantial allocation from Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for staff training and according to TETFund formula, we implement it very well, the University itself trained it staff locally but we use TETFund money for outside. Then we encourage our staff to attract outside scholarship and sponsorship. When they

do, we just support them with their salaries. So staff training especially, and it is more for academic staff than non-academic staff and that is how it should be.

There is one thing that I met, which I felt was not good. I wanted to change it but management felt that we should leave it. That is training staff for the qualifications such as ND and Degree. I felt it was wrong. My colleagues in Management felt that we should leave it, so we left it. You need to just convince me. I don't work on sentiment. They convinced me that it is good for the University so I left it.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Why do you think that is not good?*

**AKANJI:** A university should not train anyone for basic qualifications. If you want to take any basic qualification you should get it on your own and we can now train you further. It is like diverting money to unproductive ventures. Let your parents train you, then we can take over from there. But they convinced me that we should not stop it because it has been the practice here and because it is not criminal, the scope will be reduced but we will still continue with it.

Then on health facilities, we discovered that a large number of our staff don't have proper understanding of NHIS. We have done quite a lot to encourage people to subscribe to NHIS. So I think everybody now knows the importance, but you will not say because they are not on NHIS, if they are sick, you will not come to their aid,





# Felicitations!

The Dean and the entire staff of School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT) felicitate with Professor Musbau Adewumi Akanji, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor on his developmental strides as the 6th Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Minna.



Also congratulates Professor Abdullahi Bala for his feat in emerging as the 7th Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of this prestigious Institution.

We wish him God's guidance in his bid to sustaining the academic culture meant to transform FUT Minna to a World-Class Centre of Excellence in training and research in Nigeria and the world at large.





because they are your staff. Again, I remember that when I came, I met a situation that I also felt was wrong. If a senior staff died, for burial assistance, I think they gave N100 thousand. If a junior staff died N40 thousand. My question was: is death different? In fact, it is the junior staff that needs more help than the senior staff. The senior staff is supposed to have more money. So junior staff needs more money I equalised it and we upgraded it to two hundred or so about N300 thousand. Many people have benefited from it. One other thing that we did was, if any student, staff or relative of staff dies, we transport the corpse to anywhere in Nigeria. We do that at our own cost. Then we pay for those kept in the mortuary; we pay mortuary bill for a month, after which the family takes over.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *We are also aware that under your stewardship there were some members of staff that lost their breadwinners and the University came to their rescue by providing jobs for their next of kin or their wives. Please shed more light on that sir.*

It first happened to one of our lecturers in Geology. I think the family was young, three kids, very young and the wife was a house wife. The man himself was just starting life. So immediately after the mourning period, we offered the wife employment and now if you see the woman around you will see that she is happy. So when we saw how that worked out, we now made it a policy, as much as possible. Some of the beneficiaries are messengers, some are cleaners. But at least, they will have money to feed their kids. So we made it as a policy as much as possible because. Some of the bereave, especially wives are not employed; they are not trained in anything. Such people, we help them with cleaning job. If they are living in town we make sure they were posted to Bosso. If they live around here (Gidan Kwano) we make sure they are posted here so that they do not need much money for transportation.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Before you became the Vice-Chancellor in this University, even when you assumed office, you set out some target for yourself. Sir, looking back now, would you say you have achieved these targets?*

**AKANJI:** Not all. Because as I said earlier, every applicant is supposed to write a mission statement. So I pasted it in my study and I do check quarterly. In some, I have made substantial progress, in some I am happy; in some I have not even started. So this will be in my handing over note, hence the Vice-Chancellor designate will find it useful. One thing that gladdens my heart that I said is that I will make the University to be an auto-run. Auto-run means, you don't need the Vice-Chancellor to be around for the system to work. In some institutions, if the Vice-Chancellor is not around, the deputy Vice-Chancellor

cannot approve money; they do routine thing. But within my first six months, and I must say I was lucky I have very good lieutenants; everybody knows what everybody does; even so, it is easier with emails. Anytime I travel, an acting Vice-Chancellor communicates with me by email but you don't need my approval to do anything, regardless of the amount. So one of my greatest achievements is making the University run with or without VC. There was an occasion when myself and the two deputy Vice-Chancellors are out of town by accident, without deliberately planning it and the next in seniority is Dean PG School, there was a time the dean PG school was out, the next person is the most senior dean. We just told the person that the campus will be empty between this period and this period, please relocate. And I opened my office for him. Anything that is personal will be in my house; all the things here are official. In some places, if the Vice-Chancellor is not around, even if ordinary HOD is not around, nobody can enter the way I opened up this office. Some people advised me to stop it because they feel I am cheapening the office of the Vice-Chancellor and that it is not good.

Recently, one of our staff went to another federal university and I gave the person a note for assistance to the Vice-Chancellor. He came back and he knelt down for me and said, "I now know that you are my Vice-Chancellor." Why? Because for three days, he could not even go past the secretary's office because I did not have an appointment. Even students... at times I stay here till late in the night, if you can wait. The only thing is that I don't see students in the morning. I leave morning for staff but I do serious work at home. I use office hours for attending to

people. You would be surprised that some will come here to say 'I just came to greet you. They will sit down in the VC's office and say, 'I have never entered this place before.' Students will say they want to have a photograph with you in your office and that has made their day. You would be surprised how happy they will be. If shaking the Vice-Chancellor, gives you happiness and it will not cost me anything, why am I denying you that?

Then when I look at my background, I know I am just favoured, not by my own doing. So if God in His kindness favoured me, I should not withdraw my own favour from those who are lesser than I am. This philosophy has really assisted me. Anything from me that can make somebody happy, I feel happy myself. So it has really helped me. If there is anything that is going on, I have voluntary information. So I am always informed even on security issues because people easily volunteer information to me.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Is it your upbringing that made you demystify the office of the Vice-Chancellor?*

**AKANJI:** Very difficult question. Number one, I believe I



## FUTMINNA BAGS AWARD ON SOUND ETHICAL CONDUCT

The Federal University of Technology, Minna has bagged the 2017 Gold award in recognition of its sound ethical conduct.

The award was presented to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, at his Conference Room, Main Campus by the Centre for Ethics and Self Value Orientation (CESVO).

Presenting the award, the Executive Director of the International Non - Governmental Organisation, Prince Saliyu Yakub described the University as an excellent institution headed by a Vice-Chancellor who has demonstrated the highest level of dexterity and found to be ethically sound in his conduct.

He disclosed that FUT, Minna was being conferred with a Certificate of Credence and enlisted amongst the 50 ethically sound institutions in Nigeria for 2017 based on assessment carried



Prof. Akanni (5th from left) flanked by CESVO members and other Pvs.

out by their whistle blowers.

During the occasion, the VC was presented with a public officer performance appraisal score card where his personal leadership trait was independently assessed in the following areas, innovative leadership and ethical conducts, time management skill, Servicom compliance, integrity, staff/student coordination, welfare and discipline and tertiary educators policy performance and he scored excellently.

The Registrar of the institution, Mrs.

Victoria Kolo was also conferred with an ethical conduct award certificate for demonstrating the highest level of professionalism, ethical and moral conduct, dedication, self discipline, compliance to public service rules amongst others. The certificate was received on her behalf by the Deputy Registrar, Staff Training Mr. Eli Usman Gbadafu.

In his acceptance speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji thanked the NGO for the honour and urged them to continue the good work.

## FUTMINNA STAFF SCHOOL PUPILS SHINES



Cross section of Management (L) and members of staff from University Staff School during the courtesy visit

Conference Room, Main Campus.

The Head Teacher of the school, Mrs. Elizabeth Sode- Shinni disclosed that the pupils performed very well and out of the 15 shortlisted pupils for the Nigerian National Petroleum Company/Shell National Exploration Company (NNPC/SNEPCO) ten are FUT, Minna staff school pupils.

Mrs. Sode-Shinni also disclosed that after the organised test in Abuja, the school picked all the expected three slots for the State which has earned the students a scholarship for their secondary education at Premiere Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.

She commended the Management for their support and for the VC's sterling leadership in the face of difficult times.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS expressed delight at the pupils' performance.

He said Management is appreciative of the effort of the teachers in spite of challenges, the school is still performing.

Prof. Akanji also noted that Management are always happy with the presentation of the pupils during inaugural lectures and pledged his continuous support to them.

Pupils of the Federal University of Technology, Minna Staff School has once again made the institution proud.

This is coming on the heels of their performance at the last common entrance examination into Federal Government Colleges (FGC).

This was made known during a curtesy visit to the University Management, Federal University of Technology, Minna today at the Vice-Chancellor's



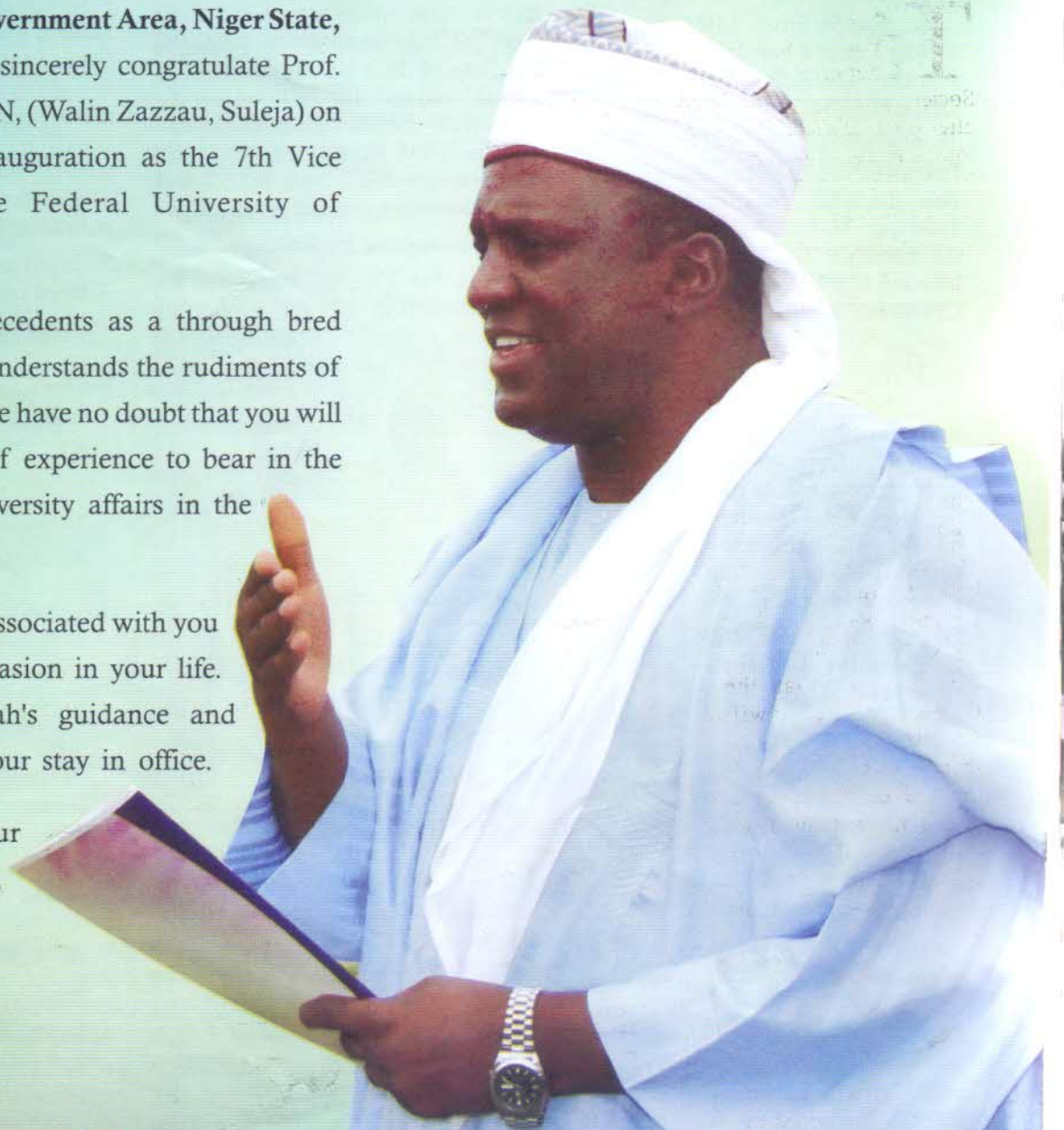
## *Congratulatory Message*

**O**n behalf of the good people of **Suleja Local Government Area, Niger State,** I wish to sincerely congratulate Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSN, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on the event of his inauguration as the 7th Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Based on your antecedents as a through bred administrator who understands the rudiments of University system, we have no doubt that you will bring your wealth of experience to bear in the running of the University affairs in the next five years

We are proud to be associated with you on this glorious occasion in your life. We wish you Allah's guidance and protection during your stay in office.

Congratulations our own Walin Zazzau, Suleja



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSN**  
*(Walin Zazzau Suleja)*



*Signed:*

Executive Chairman  
Suleja Local Government Council



## FUT STAFF COOPERATIVE POSTS N18.2M PROFIT, DECLARES 50K DIVIDEND

### ...SHAREHOLDERS ELECT ASHafa AS PRESIDENT

The Federal University of Technology, Minna Staff Cooperative Multi-Purpose Society Limited has declared a profit after tax of N18, 260, 134. 35 million for the financial year ended December 31, 2016 and declared fifty kobo per share dividend for members.

This disclosure was made by the Treasurer, Mallam Yandalu Yusuf at the Society's 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held recently at the CPES Hall, Bosso Campus.

Mallam Yandalu stated that the Cooperative Society recorded unprecedented success during the financial year under review, adding that the success was achieved based on members support, understanding and cooperation.

He disclosed that the Cooperative goodwill resulted in 1,426 membership strength at the end of the financial year with a total share capital of N27,771,580.00, adding that the backbone of the Cooperative Society is in the area of thrift savings which amounted to N601,789,512.00 as at December, 2016.

On the need to boost the Cooperative thrift savings, the Treasurer made an appeal to shareholders for minimum monthly contribution to be pegged at N5,000 and urged members to desist from withdrawing their thrift savings so that the Cooperative Society can serve them better.

Earlier, the President, Alh. Mohammed Sani Abubakar Kuta said the Annual General Meeting is an exciting day when members come together to discuss issues that would lead to the progress of the Society.

The President commended members for the mandate given to the Executive to spearhead the affairs of the Society in the last four years.

He disclosed that the following as some

of the achievements of the present executive members: continuous improvement in disbursement of all forms of loan packages to members, purchase of 14.4 hectares of land at Dama village for allocation to interested members on loan and donation of computer sets and accessories to FUT Staff School and Model Secondary School as part of its corporate social responsibility.

At the AGM, a motion was moved for the dissolution of the Executive

ex-officio members.

In his acceptance speech, the President, Mallam Ashafa who is also the Deputy Director, Internal Audit Unit, said the emergence of the new executive marks the beginning of a new dawn in the annals of the Cooperative Society, stating that pragmatic efforts are needed to rebuild the Society to greatness.

He urged members to forget about their political differences and join hands



The newly elected executive council taking oath of office after the election.

Council which was unanimously seconded by shareholders. That paved the way for the election of new executive members to pilot the affairs of the Society in the next two years.

The election and counting of ballot papers lasted up to 10pm in the night by the Electoral Committee members, the Chairman and Dean, School of Science and Technology Education, Prof. Ben Atsumbe announced the following as the newly elected executive members of the Cooperative Society: President, Mallam Ashafa Mohammed Aminu who polled 457 votes to defeat Alh. who polled 457 votes to defeat Alh.

Ahmed Dauda who got 381 votes; Vice-President, Mrs. Damaris Tsado; Secretary, Mr. Adamu Mohammed E. Others are: Treasurer, Ahmed Ishaku Kuta; Business Secretary, Mr. Simon Gana while the out gone President,

Secretary and Treasurer will serve as

with the present administration to move the Society forward, while assuring members that the era of parochial sentiments and favouritism are over and promised to ensure equal rights for all members at all times.

"Our bane is the paradox of putting sentiment and emotion before due process," he noted.

He admonished members to change their attitude towards the Cooperative and solicited for the support of all members.

"We must know that our Cooperative will not change except we change our attitude. The notion of this is how it has always been done should be discarded," he advised.

The newly elected executive members were later sworn -in by the Chairman of the Electoral Committee immediately after the election results were announced.



# FUTMINNA RESEARCH GROUP VISITS OAU

## Secures Partnership Deals with ACE, OAU Research Group

In view of the need to boost inter-university research collaborations aimed at addressing societal problems, one of the research groups of the Federal University of Technology, Minna known as the Advanced Engineering Innovation Research Group (AEIRG) has concluded a 3-day research tour to the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State.

The research group was led by the Director, Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (CODeL) and Head, Department of Mechatronics Engineering, Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu.

The team's first point of call was at the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering where they were received by the Head of the department, Dr. Thomas Yesufu before they were handed over to the Head of the Communication Research Group domiciled in the department, Dr. Solomon Adeniran.

Speaking during the interactive session, Dr. Adeniran said it would be a dream come true for both parties to consummate their research collaborations with the aim of working together for the good of the society, adding that quality research is needed to achieve the much needed development in the country.

He expressed satisfaction with the quality of research works exhibited by the University's team while stating that OAU research group is desirous to collaborate with FUT, Minna because of its antecedents in conducting world class research which has resulted in the group winning many local and international laurels.

Dr. Adeniran who was the leader of the team that launched Nigeria SAT-1 further disclosed that the group has collaboration deals with several notable organizations in the world

and expressed optimism that adding FUT,

Minna to the list would enhance the fortune of the group.

Responding, the leader of FUT, Minna research group, Prof. Aibinu said the purpose of the visit was to finalize areas of collaboration with the group based on the outcome of their earlier visit, noting that the group's mission is to collaborate with renowned research groups in the country that have the capacity to address the research needs of the country.

The University research group later had another interactive session with staff of Africa Centre of

Excellence in Software Engineering at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

The group was received by the ACE Project Head, Prof. Aderounmu, who stated that working with the group would be in line with the objectives of the Centre in developing the next generation of scientists, researchers and teachers by stimulating their creativity and excellence in research and innovation.

The ACE Project Head, further disclosed that the Centre is desirous to provide the launch pad for start-up companies borne out of university research activities, and collaboration with partnering ICT companies, who would have the

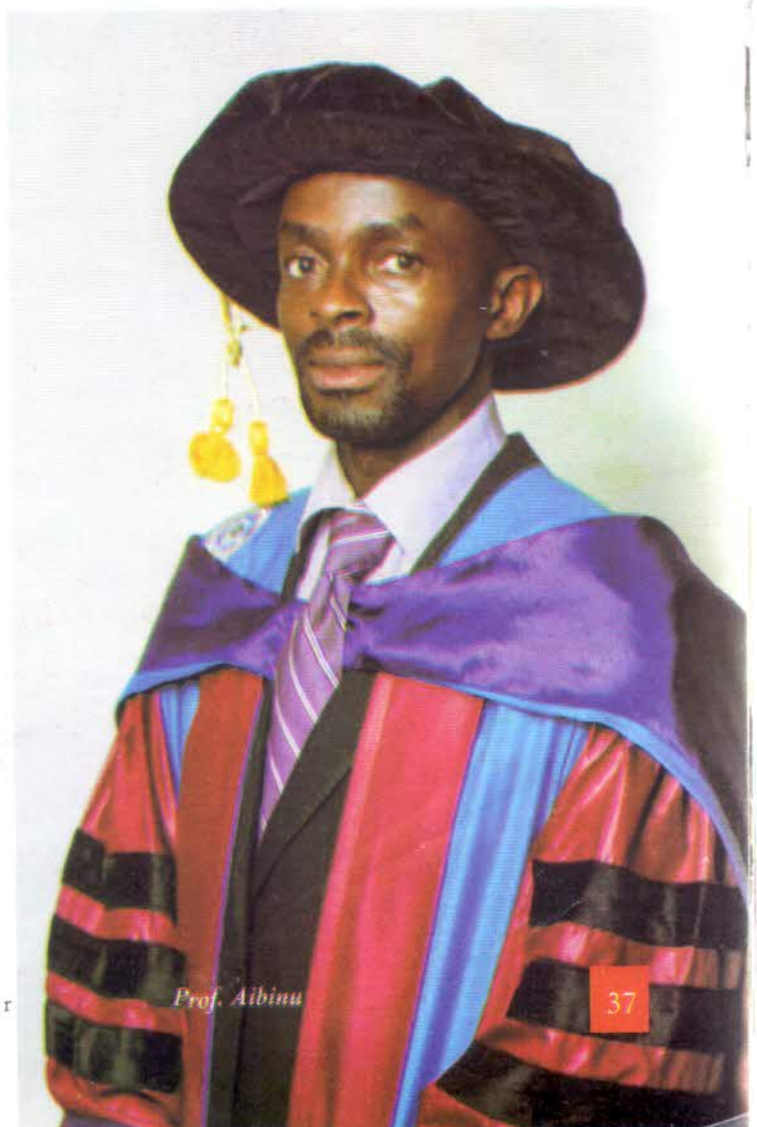
competitive advantage of proximity and direct access to the intellectual infrastructure and output of the university.

He disclosed that he was marvelled by the quantum of research prototypes and designs executed by the group and expressed desire to partner with the group.

Responding, Prof. Aibinu stated that FUT, Minna is a powerhouse in ICT training among Nigerian universities and revealed that the group is ready and well equipped to collaborate with ACE.

He assured them that the partnership would be a win-win situation for both parties.

The next trip for the group will be a week research tour to some federal government ministries, departments, agencies and other notable organisations in Abuja.



Prof. Aibinu





Prof. Junaid delivering his lecture



The VC, Prof. Akanji presenting plaque to Prof. Junaid and family members after his presentation



The Inaugural Lecturer flanked by the VC and Registrar



The VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji introducing the Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. A.S. Ma'aji



Prof. A.S. Ma'aji delivering his lecture



The VC, Prof. Akanji presenting an award to Prof. Ma'aji with his wife



The Registrar, Mrs. V. N Kolo introducing the lecture



Prof. Aberuagba presenting his lecture booklet to the VC



The VC in a tete-a-tete with Prof. Aberuagba



Principal Officers and Deans pose for a group photograph with the Inaugural Lecturer





Prof. Dauda in a warm handshake with the VC



Prof. Dauda looks with keen interest



The Inaugural Lecturer in a group photograph with VC (r) and Registrar (l)



VC explaining a point as Prof. (Mrs.) Udensi looks on



The representative of the Registrar, Mr Eli Gbadafu leading the Inaugural Lecture Procession into the hall



The VC presenting a plaque to the Inaugural Lecturer and her husband



Registrar Mrs Kolo leading the Procession into the Venue



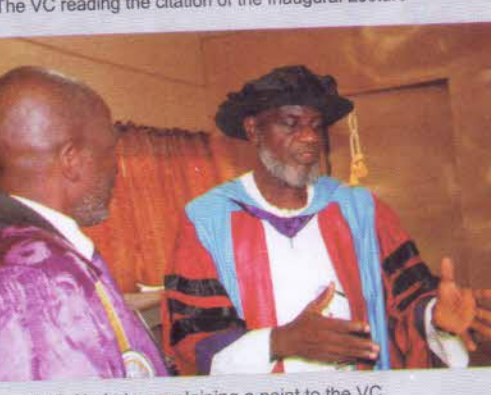
The VC reading the citation of the Inaugural Lecture



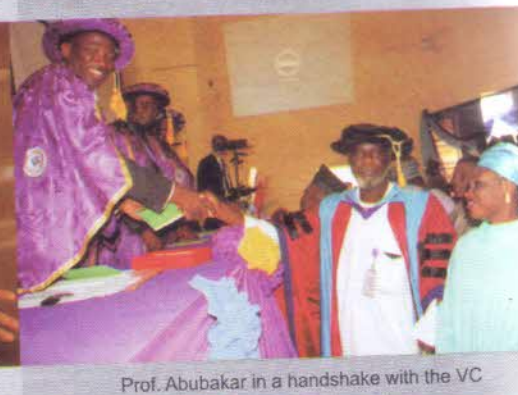
Prof and Mrs Udofin displaying their University memento



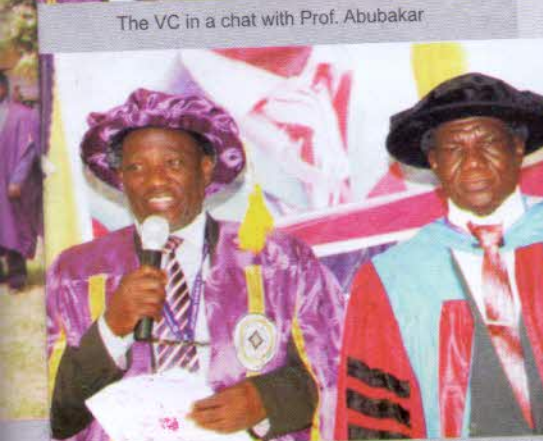
The VC in a chat with Prof. Abubakar



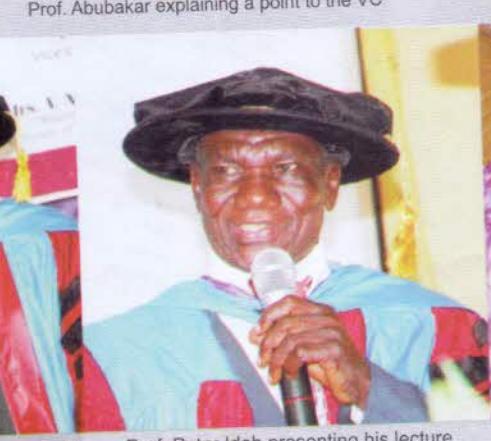
Prof. Abubakar explaining a point to the VC



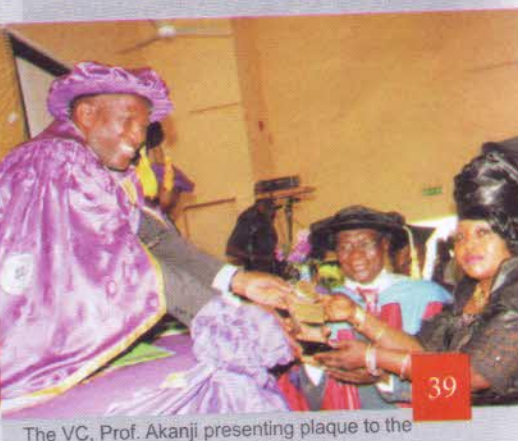
Prof. Abubakar in a handshake with the VC



The VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji introducing the lecturer, Prof. Peter Idah



Prof. Peter Idah presenting his lecture



The VC, Prof. Akanji presenting plaque to the inaugural lecturer and his wife





The VC in a chat with Prof. Abubakar



Prof. Abubakar in a handshake with the VC



The VC in a chat with Prof. Abubakar



Prof. Abubakar in a handshake with the VC



Staff of Information and Publications Unit in a group photograph with the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji during a thank you visit to the VC in his office.



Some exclusive pictures taken at important events.



FUTMinna Council Members in a group photograph with the Minister and other Government Officials



Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu presenting letter of appointment to Prof. Femi Odekunle



The Pro-Chancellor being interviewed by a staff of the unit.



The Proc-Chancellor Prof. Femi Odekunle in a lively discussion with the VC, Prof. Akanji



The Registrar, Mrs V.N. Kolo



The VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji in a chat with former Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar



Member of ARNU in a group snapshot with the Emir of Bida



The VC designate, Prof. Abdullahi Bala. Speaking at the Event.



The VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji delivering his address at the Free ICT training held at the FUTMinna Study Centre, Suleja





2nd Annual Registry Lecture / Award Presentation



VC with Former Registrar FUT Minna, Mrs Larai Ahmed speaking at the event



Cross section of the awardees at the events



The Registrar, Mrs V.N. Kolo with the Former Registrar of the University, Alh. Dattijo Usman at the event.



The guest lecturer, Mr. Ayorinde Ogunruku (JP)



The registrar, Mrs. V. N. Kolo speaking at the event



The current Registrar with Former Registrars of the University





The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle with the VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji



The VC designate, Prof. Bala discussing with other council members at the event.



Participant in a group photograph after the retreat held at the Barcelona Hotel, Abuja



Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle presenting letter of appointment to Prof. Abdullahi Bala while the VC and Registrar watched with keen interest



Prof. Bala displaying his appointment letter



The DVC (Admin.), Prof. Y. Iyaka and Chairman Sports Committee, Prof. A. T. Ijaiya presenting commemorative medal to Prof. Akankji.



The VC, Prof. M. A. Akanji presenting medal to one of the University athletes at the last NUGA games.



FUTMinna contingent to the last NUGA games in a group snapshot with the VC and other Pos after the official medal presentation





**Cont'd from page 21**

based on their population. This has resulted in many staff attending different local and international conferences and workshops aimed at boosting their productivity. Through judicious management of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) intervention on staff training and development, the University has sponsored many academic staff to undergo their doctoral programmes in

Muslim staff. The project was abandoned several times in the past but saw the light of the day when Prof. Akanji headed the Building Committee to manage the funds for the construction of the mosque. The mosque was commissioned by the Emir of Kano, Alh. Muhammadu Sanusi II in January 2017.

#### Research and Development

Prof. Akanji had maintained, at different fora, that a university should not be judged by buildings alone; rather, but it should be judged based on the quality of its research output. As a renowned researcher, he has raised the bar of research and development in the University since 2012 when he assumed duty. His decision to upgrade the former Board of Research to a Directorate status has culminated in the University winning many research grants, both locally and internationally. Based on his support for research and innovations, the University now has different research groups that cut across different fields. These research groups have put the university's name on the world map owing to their research findings. For three years in a row, the University's researchers won the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) grants.

#### Staff Training, Promotion and Welfare

It is on record that staff promotion in the last five years has been given top priority by the University under Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji's reign. The issue of promotion arrears is a thing of the past in the university because staff get their promotion as and when due, except for professorial cadre staff whose promotions are determined by assessors. There are no more delays as call notice for promotion are advertised as early as five months to the promotion date.

In the area of staff training, a large number of staff of the University have benefitted from the well harmonised training programmes. The Vice-Chancellor has ensured fairness in the selection process of staff to enjoy the training programmes with funds allocated to Schools

Nigeria and abroad.

#### Ranking

On assumption of office, Prof. Akanji pledged to launch the University to international recognition. Five years down the lane, the enviable position is a clear evidence of his goal with distinction. The doyen of Biochemistry has kept to his promise. The University that was number 28 in Nigeria and not among the best 100 universities in Africa in 2012 when he assumed duty is now number 5 in Nigeria, first among the specialised universities in Nigeria and 45<sup>th</sup> in Africa out of over 4, 325 universities that were subjected to the scrutiny by many world acclaimed ranking agencies.

#### Inaugural Lectures

The underpinning tenets of inaugural lecture is to let people know what a professor has accomplished in terms of research over the years and what he/she has in mind for the future. No doubt, the importance of inaugural lecture is to synthesize one's scholarship and the scholar's contribution to knowledge. It is also delivered in a simplified manner to enable everybody understand what the lecturer has done. On assumption of duty in 2012, Prof. Akanji expressed displeasure with the fact that the University's professors had only presented 24 inaugural lectures in the 29 years history of the University. He challenged Professors to deliver their inaugural lectures so that the academic world would know what they have contributed to knowledge. This challenge was taken in good faith by both old and new professors which has resulted in many presenting their inaugural lectures. Within five years of Prof. Akanji's reign, 36 professors have delivered their inaugural lectures, bringing the total number to 60.

#### Convocation Ceremony

The University convocation under Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji has been adjudged as one of the best in Nigeria. This statement was credited to the Executive Secretary, NUC during the 26<sup>th</sup> convocation of the university held in 2017. The adherence to academic culture and tradition stands the convocation out and has become a reference point in Nigeria on effective convocation





YORUBA FORUM  
FUTMINNA CHAPTER

# YORUBA FORUM

## Federal University of Technology

P.M.B. 46, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria



## *Felicitation*



Prof. Akamji

Prof. Bala

**T**he leadership and the entire members of Yoruba Forum, Federal University of Technology, Minna most heartily rejoice with the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the University, **Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji**, FNSBMB, FAS, on the successful completion of his tenure.

Sir, we are proud of the Leadership you provided, launching the University into global reckoning. We can only wish you Allah's guidance and greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Once again, congratulations, Sir, for fruitful tenure.

We also felicitate with the in-coming Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN on his appointment. May Allah continue to guide and protect him in the discharge of the onerous responsibilities of the new office.



Signed:  
**Prof. Y. A. Yahaya**  
President



## PROF AKANJI LAYS FOUNDATION FOR SSANU SECRETARIAT ... Donates N2.5m to SSANU

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji has laid the foundation for the construction of secretariat for Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), FUT, Minna branch to address the problem of office accommodation for the Union executive members.

The event took place recently at the site located behind the University Security Office at the Main Campus.

Performing the foundation laying exercise, Prof. Akanji said the building when completed would add to the aesthetic of the University. He commended the Union for initiating the project during his tenure and urged them to ensure timely completion of the project.

The Vice-Chancellor later announced the donation of #2.5m by the University Management to the Union, adding that the donation was to encourage the Union for contributing to the development of the University.

He thanked the Union for being responsible and responsive while admonishing other unions in the University to emulate SSANU.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman, FUT, Minna SSANU Branch, Comrade Aliyu Abubakar expressed appreciation to the University Management for giving the Union land to build its secretariat and assured Management that the project would not be abandoned.

"We are dedicating this project to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji for being a union friendly leader. The Union will work on this site so that you can flag it off before the end of your tenure", the Chairman disclosed.

He revealed that the Union would concentrate on the office section in the first phase of the plan while other aspects

would take off later.

The project is in three phases with provision for officials office, 1,000 capacity auditorium and 15-room guest house.

In a related development, speaking before declaring the SSANU zonal executive council meeting open, the Vice-Chancellor said the University Management has robust relationship with the Union, stating that the University was happy to host the zonal executive council of the Union.

"Meeting like this will help Management to know the pains and desires of members towards attaining industrial harmony. We are up to date on the issue of staff promotion and salary", the VC enthused.

Delivering his address, the Chairman, Northern Zonal Executive Council, Comrade Alpha Solomon thanked the University Management for all the support given to the State branch of the Union and commended the University for the peaceful process during the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor for the institution.

In his address, the Branch Chairman of the Union, Comrade Abubakar Aliyu said the Union is honoured to host the Northern Executive Council meeting and thanked them for finding FUT, Minna worthy to host the event.

He noted that SSANU under his leadership has worked towards attending to all various staff matters.

The Chairman urged members to remember the Union's agitations on the 12-point issues that led to the just suspended strike.

He appealed to the Vice-Chancellor to look at the issue of creation of directorates cadre for non-academic staff, usurpation of headship of non-academic units and the forthcoming tranche of earned allowance.



The University POs flanked by Northern Zonal Executive Council members in a group photograph



**Cont'd from page 33**

found myself at various points in life which I don't have the pedigree to get to. I went to school by accident, because there was no where my mummy would keep me because I was a big boy and she couldn't be carrying me about on her back as that would delay her movement. And since the school was available, she decided to be dropping me there. That was how I went to school. So it was by accident. Then when my mummy died, I was in primary two, I went to my grandmother. My father was very rich but he did not believe in education. So if my mother did not die I would not have gone beyond primary six. Unfortunately I am from a polygamous home and all of us from my mother were boys, so we had inheritance waiting for us and the thinking was why do we waste time going to school. So again it was by accident that I went to secondary school. After secondary school, it was by accident that I went to HSC. After HSC it was because I passed that I went to university. When I got to the university, I didn't have any course in mind; I just knew that I was in sciences. I resumed university September, 1972. We queued at the registration centre. Next was the question of what course we wanted to study because we were all in the faculty of science. They mentioned a course, I had never heard Biochemistry before, so I queued. The man in front of me is from an educated home, from Oyo state. The parents are educated. He had made up his mind he wanted to read Biochemistry. I had never met him before but he was in front of me. Biochemistry? Which one is that? And I was the best biology student then. Chemistry is logical and I

like Biology very well. I just went to Biochemistry. After one year, those of us that did well, they wanted to convert us to medicine. Medicine? How many years? They said five. In biochemistry, I had only two more years and I was a very poor student. Two years. I wondered why I should now leave a course in which I had just two years to complete and go for another one for five years just because I passed very well? I didn't follow them, if I was from an educated home, I would have gone that way. I finished Biochemistry and told myself that in this life, I would never ever read again because I went through some challenges as an undergraduate. I spent three years in the university "A" level, direct entry, for two years and I had only three pairs of trousers. No money to buy more. So I concentrated on reading. So I said I would never go to school again after my first degree.

- After Youth Service, I got a job, bought a car. I was driving from Jos to Kaduna to watch football. It was a 3-hour drive. When I got to the office, I would start discussing weekend football. So I was enjoying life. My salary was, I think N325. I bought things in bulk, in cartons, but I read. I like literature, I have more than 200 biographies in my library now. So I was enjoying life, so I thought. But those of our colleagues from educated homes, after Youth Service they went to school to get Masters. We were enjoying life. When they came back it was as if they spent a week. They spent two years but it was like a week. They just came back and became our bosses. We were better than some of them in school, they became our bosses; their



*Prof. Akanni stressing a point during the interview*



salaries better than our own. With that we took up the challenge to get Master's degree because salary will increase. It was only PhD that I read for deliberately. I am telling you just to show that where I find myself is just by accident; not by qualification; not because I am the best. So if God favours you, you must favour man, within your powers. So my background contributed to my attitude. Then another thing is I believe, tomorrow a messenger here may be my boss. If you are wicked to him, it may not even be indirectly, you will meet somebody who will do same to you. I believe in the law of karma. I read Lobsang Rampa extensively. I had all his publications as a young man. He is a meta-physician. I believe so much in the law of karma. If you do good, you will get it, if not you, your child. So I try as much as possible to do what I consider good because I am afraid of karma. More importantly, I want to describe myself as being religious. I believe that all what we do here we will give account to somebody that is higher than us. There is no doubt about it. Even what we do inside the confines of our room, somebody will see it. So my background has contributed. I am someone from a very poor background who got here by accident, by special favour of God and I will not be true to that God if I don't dispense favour to others. I hate it when I go to somebody's house in the afternoon and I am told I can't see him because he's sleeping. I hate it, even as a young man. So you can never be told, if you come to my house, that I am sleeping or that I don't want to see you, unless I am ill. I remember at University of Ilorin, there was a time my vice-chancellor sent for me. I got there and waited for 30 minutes and couldn't see him. I just told the Secretary that I was going back to my office and that when it is 15 minutes to the time, they should let me know. I left. Later they called me; I said I am sorry, I am busy; I have a class. I saw him about three days later. Since then, whenever he sent for me, he would say 'Please Prof. Akanji, I am busy, but sit down. And that is what I do here. If I am attending to you and somebody comes in, they will sit down here but they will be seeing me not that they would wait outside. But if you want to discuss in secret, then we will now look for secret appointment and it has really worked

The other thing I do is that I don't accept gossips and backbiting. If, for instance, Mustapha comes now and says Stanley is a bad person, I won't listen to him. I would call Stanley and ask Mustapha to repeat what he told me in his presence. If you tell me that someone abused me, I wouldn't be bothered. If they don't abuse the Vice-Chancellor, who would they abuse? Students and staff, if

*'From 2014 to 2017, eight universities did not ask for any years of professorship, including UNN that was born in 1960. So I prepared a table and listed the 16, their years of establishment, the qualifications required. Nsukka that was the second to only Ibadan did not ask and they have more than 200 professors in their senate.'*

they are angry, you cut their salary or you don't pay them, of course, they would abuse you. If you are the head of the place, if anything goes wrong, they would blame you. Even if people fight with their wives at home, it is the fault of the Vice-Chancellor because he didn't pay double salary.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Your coming here as V.C. initially witnessed some form of agitations from the host community, but your exit is clearly something of the opposite indication of a seamless transition. We would like to hear your comment on this.*

**AKANJI:** Thank you. Because I was not here when preparations for my entry was being done, I cannot be factual on what caused it. But I know that I came in and met serious protests. However, over the years, I opened myself to them and we warmed up to each other again. Also, I want to believe that a large proportion of the people here trust me, that I will not cause them any harm. And then when it remained about a year for me to go, I started reminding Council, I am going on December 3, 2017 and that they should start the process of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor. Some members of Council wondered why I was anxious to go. Anything that has a beginning must have an end. Then I also told the last Council that the only way is to make the selection process simple and transparent so that everybody will see what is happening. It is when you do something behind closed doors that it would arouse suspicion.

There was this problem of adding the requirement that applicants must have been professors for 10 years. I asked them where they got it from. They said we have been using it because it was so in the case of some former Vice-Chancellors of this University –Tukur Sa'ad, 15-10 years; M.S. Audu, 10 years and I, 10 years. I said no. I now told them the story of that 10 years requirement. It is for the southerners because if they want 20 years they will get 20 years. I did a survey of 16 universities that appointed VCs between 2014 and 2017. Eight of them did not ask for years of professorial experience. You must be a professor, that's all. I told them the history of universities that were appointing senior lecturer as VC. From 2014 to 2017, eight universities did not ask for any years of professorship, including UNN that was born in 1960. So I prepared a table and listed the 16, their years of establishment, the qualifications required. Nsukka that was the second to only Ibadan did not ask and they have more than 200 professors in their senate. They asked for zero years. So there must be wisdom in that. ABU that is our mother asked for zero years. Sokoto that is our senior brother asked for zero years. Nsukka is not in the North. Calabar asked for seven years. Jos asked for five. Eight universities asked for zero years; two asked for five years; two for seven years. Only four asked for



## Congratulations To Our Don

**O**n behalf of the entire members of Suleja Emirate Education Trust (SEET), I wish to heartily rejoice with our illustrious son, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

This appointment is an honour not just to you and your family alone but to the entire people of Suleja Emirate Council and Niger State at large.

As a proven administrator par excellence, we have no doubt; that you will bring your 27 years of scholarship experience to bear in piloting the affairs of the University to greater heights.

We pray that Almighty Allah would direct you and enrich you with wisdom to contribute your quota to the development of FUT, Minna.

We wish you success in your new office and the years ahead.



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSN**  
Walin Zazzau Suleja



**Abubakar Dantsoho**  
Secretary, Suleja Emirate Education Trust  
(SEET)

## Felicitations

We, the entire staff and students of **Model Commercial College, Suleja** warmly rejoice with our father, brother, uncle and mentor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Sir, you are an outstanding achiever and a role model. We are proud of you because you are a source of inspiration to us.

We believe that you will take the University to greater heights and we will continue to pray for your success.

*Congratulations! Congratulations!!  
Congratulations!!!*



Signed:  
**Abubakar Ladan**  
Principal



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala**



## NIGER STATE POLICE COMMAND SEEKS FUTMINNA SUPPORT

The newly posted Niger State Commissioner of Police, CP. Austin Iwero Agbonlahor psc, fdc, MNIM has solicited for the support of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in order to fight crime in the State.

This request was made when the CP led other top brass of the Nigeria Police Force on a courtesy visit to the University Management at the Vice-Chancellor's Conference Room, Main Campus.

In his remarks, CP Agbonlahor said the purpose of the visit was to familiarise with the University community and to request for collaboration in critical areas that are germane to national development.

"We see the University community as a critical stakeholder in terms of national development and security. And as such, we cannot do without partnering with you," the CP revealed.

The Commissioner of Police disclosed that the Command would soon establish a Police-Students Forum in order to fight crime and other social vices in the State while hoping that the University Management would cooperate with the Police towards making the idea a reality.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS expressed appreciation to the Commissioner of Police for visiting the University, adding that the University Management has enjoyed robust relationship with previous Commissioners of Police in the State. He expressed hope that such relationship would continue

under the leadership of the new CP.

"The Niger State Police Command has been assisting our University during crisis period. I want to officially inform you that all your Divisional Police officers in the State are good friends of the University," the VC enthused.

Prof. Akanji commended the Niger State Police Command for accepting to establish a police post in the Gidan Kwano community, saying that the police outpost has contributed tremendously in the fight against crime within the community.

The don said the proposed Police-Students Forum, when established, would reduce crime rate to the barest minimum in the University community and the State at large.

The University Helmsman stated that with a student population of 22, 000 and staff population of 4,000 the University is a community on its own, noting that the greatest problem that happened to the Nigerian university system in the area of accommodation was in

the 1980s during the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria crisis when the Federal Government stopped the construction of hostels in public universities. This, he noted contributed to the growing population of students living outside the campuses.

"Here in FUT, Minna, we have a student population of 22,000 but we can only provide accommodation for 3,000 students on campus. So, most of our students reside in the Bosso and Gidan Kwano communities," he disclosed.



R-L: CP Agbonlahor presenting a plaque to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji



## FUTMINNA MICROFINANCE BANK HOLDS AGM

- Declares N10.9m Profit
- Prof Akanji Commends Acting MD

Despite the well documented economic challenges witnessed in the year 2016, the Federal University of Technology, Minna Microfinance Bank has posted an impressive N10,980,407 profit after taxation with improvements across different departments of the bank.

This disclosure was made known by the acting Chairperson, Board of Directors of the bank, Mrs. Hajara Kuso Abdullahi during the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the bank held recently at the CPES Hall, Bosso Campus.

Delivering her address, Mrs. Abdullahi who is also the Bursar of the University commended the bank's shareholders and customers for being loyal and committed to the bank despite the attendant challenges witnessed in the year under review.

The acting Chairperson said despite the difficulties witnessed in the year 2016 as a result of the economic

recession; that the bank was able to deliver on its promises to the bank's customers and stakeholders, adding that the bank's operation methods were impressive, purpose-driven and surpassed the expectations of the bank customers.

She disclosed that the year 2016 Portfolio at Risk (PAR) of the bank stood at 10.28 percent due to nonperforming status of some of the bank's loans while stating that the bank has been able to recover some loans from its debtors based on the aggressive loan recovery strategies introduced by the bank.

On the bank's liquidity ratio, the Bursar of the University noted that the bank's liquidity ratio stood at 75.93 percent as at December 31st 2016, saying that it was an indication that the bank is highly liquid and can meet its financial obligations to its creditors at any point in time.

Mrs. Abdullahi further stated that the bank has invested massively in information and communication technology in view of its importance in financial

transactions, noting that the bank had upgraded and converted its banking application software from Cutebanker II to Cutebanker Lite in order to meet the online banking transaction needs of its customers.

"We are presently working on our banking mobile app and it will soon be launched", she stated.

She thanked the University Management for supporting all the activities of the bank.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, expressed appreciation with the performance of the bank and urged the bank management to maintain the tempo in order to justify the University's investment in the bank.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented at the event by the University Librarian, Dr. Jubril Attahiru Alhassan said the University management is proud of the bank's

achievements under the present acting Managing Director of the bank, adding that the bank needs to be innovative in order to remain afloat in business.

Prof. Akanji assured the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) that the bank would adhere with the tenets of its operational license and thanked them for providing the enabling environment for the bank to operate.

In her goodwill message, the Head, Bank Examination Unit, (NDIC), Mrs. Adaku Onyekwere applauded

the bank for operating within its license, stating that the AGM is a sign that the bank is performing.

She assured shareholders that their investment in the bank is well protected because the bank is fully insured by NDIC.

In an exclusive interview with the acting Managing Director of the bank, Mal. Aminu Mohammed Ashafa said the success recorded by the bank in the year under review was due to the innovation and life changing schemes introduced by the bank.

Mal. Aminu stated that the consistency of the bank's

performance demonstrates strong resilience and determination to win despite the attendant economic challenges witnessed in the financial sector of the country in 2016.

He further reiterated the bank's commitment to quality service delivery to its customers and assured shareholders of continued focus on core business drivers to ensure sustained growth in the bank's business strategies to enhance its returns on investments.

"My dream is to see FUT, Minna Microfinance Bank become a State MFB in order to expand its services beyond Bosso community," he enthused.

FUT, Minna Microfinance Bank was incorporated on the 4th of October 2011 with a license issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on the 8th of March, 2012 to operate as a unit Microfinance Bank. The bank commenced operation on July 1, 2012.



The Board members of the bank supported by other invited guests, external traders and others cutting the ceremonial cake to commemorate the Bank's 3rd AGM.



**Cont'd from page 44**

ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor made tremendous efforts to ensure that the University Convocation would henceforth be celebrated on its Founder's Day in line with global best practices.

#### **Transcript/Certificate**

The delay in certificate and transcript issuance by the University to its graduands has denied many alumni scholarship and job opportunities. Disturbed by this ugly scenario, the Vice-Chancellor on assumption of duty vowed that he would not conduct convocation without issuing certificates to graduands. In 2014, the Vice-Chancellor matched his words with action when the University organized its combined 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> convocation ceremonies. The convocation witnessed the presentation of certificates to graduands immediately after the convocation ceremony. This singular act has contributed to the huge attendance of graduands to the university convocation because they know that their certificates will be given out.

On transcript, the delay that usually characterised the issuance of transcript with no time frame of collection in mind is now a thing of the past. Students' transcripts are now processed for collection within two weeks of application. This act has now endeared the University to its alumni.

#### **Internet Connectivity**

The education world today is ICT and internet driven. The importance of internet connectivity in teaching, research and learning cannot be downplayed. The out-going Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji acknowledged this right from the day he assumed office. He has increased the University's 50 mbps in 2012 to 310 mbps. This accounted for high speed internet service on campus.

#### **Hosting of Local & International Conferences**

From 2012 when Prof. Akanji assumed office, the University campus has become abode for many organizations to host their events. The University has hosted several local and international conferences, workshops and training. Worthy to mention is the International Conference of Biochemistry hosted in 2015, the International Engineering Conference and the Nigerian Institute of Physics Conference, 2017.

#### **Town and Gown**

The University relationship with its host communities has been further enhanced by Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji.



The University has contributed significantly to the development of its host communities in the areas of manpower development, skill acquisition, community projects such as the renovation of the Gidan Kwano Primary School and supply of instructional materials and leasing of some parts of the university land for the Gidan Kwano community to farm. The University also donated a Police Outpost to the Gidan Kwano community.

#### **Collaborations**

Before the assumption of duty by Prof. Akanji in 2012, the University has many memoranda of understanding that were not functional. He requested for details of all the university's collaborations with a promise to revive all the dormant MOUs. Looking back, five years after, the University now has vibrant collaborations with universities and industries in Nigeria, Asia, Europe, America and other African countries.

#### **Sports**

As a sports aficionado, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji has contributed tremendously to the development of sports in the University. It is on record that the university staff and students participated in all Nigerian Universities Staff Games and The Nigeria Universities Games (NUGA) with all allowances paid. The University Gymnasium has been given a face-lift during his administration. Sporting facilities were also upgraded at both campuses to boost students and staff participation in sports.

Indeed, Prof. Akanji has made the Federal University of Technology, Minna to become a household name in Nigeria which has culminated in a large number of students jostling for admission slot in the university. Based on his achievements in the last five years, it hoped that he will continue to offer dedicated service to the nation in whatever capacity he may find himself. At this point in time, Nigeria needs more men that can serve the country with dedication and commitment like Prof. Akanji.



## PROF JUNAID CALLS FOR URBAN SLUM DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria as a nation has instituted several housing policies and the level of achievement is not commensurate with the efforts put, hence the provision of decent and affordable housing for the majority of urban poor has continued to remain a mirage.

Prof. Asimiyu Mohammed Junaid made this assertion when he delivered the 51st Inaugural Lecture of the University, titled: Housing for The Nigerian Urban Poor: A Reality or A Mirage? at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The erudite scholar, who is the Dean, School of Environmental Technology (SET), described the urban poor as low income earners or households who cannot afford the basic needs to live a healthy and minimal comfortable life.

According to him, lack of good housing is associated with insecurity, poor health and wellbeing, poverty and all forms of deprivation.

Prof. Junaid explained that constructing a house is a capital intensive venture, as such, for a low income earner to own a house, there must be a solid financial support either from the government or private sector.

Since majority of the low income

earners are underemployed or unemployed, who do not have access to mortgage finance. Therefore, the desire to own a house remain a lifelong ambition for the urban poor.

The problem of housing affordability he said, is compounded, by the



*Prof. Junaid delivering his lecture yesterday*

increase in house rent, housing demand and supply, inflation, economic recession and fall in foreign exchange rates.

The Professor of Urban and Regional Planning further maintained that the urban poor have no place to stay rather than the slum where they live in constant fear of eviction and demolition. Such exercise, he pointed out, bring about a lot of agonies, grief, frustration as well as feelings of

rejection and abandonment of the citizens by the authorities.

"A typical demolition scenario is characterized by protest, hues and cries, hopelessness and helplessness. The aftermath normally leaves behind rubbles of ruined houses of the urban poor, large population of homeless citizen and above all, psychological trauma," he enumerated.

The former Director of CDRM&DS, while recommending the review and completion of the existing housing projects across the country said that the slum provides housing for the huge urban human resources with diverse skills and human ingenuity, adding that this population drives the economy of the cities by providing big market and labour force.

The Dean called for provision of infrastructure in order to make the living condition of the slum better.

He stressed the need for government to ensure the housing scheme reached the targeted poor rather than being hijacked by the rich while ensuring the regularization of the existing informal land titles in

Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, in his remark indicated the importance of inaugural lecture in the life a professor as it is presented once. He reiterated the need for other professors that are yet to deliver theirs to do so.

Prof. Akanji while thanking everybody for attending the lecture wished them journey mercies back to their respective destinations.



## Tribute to Prof. M.A. Akanji

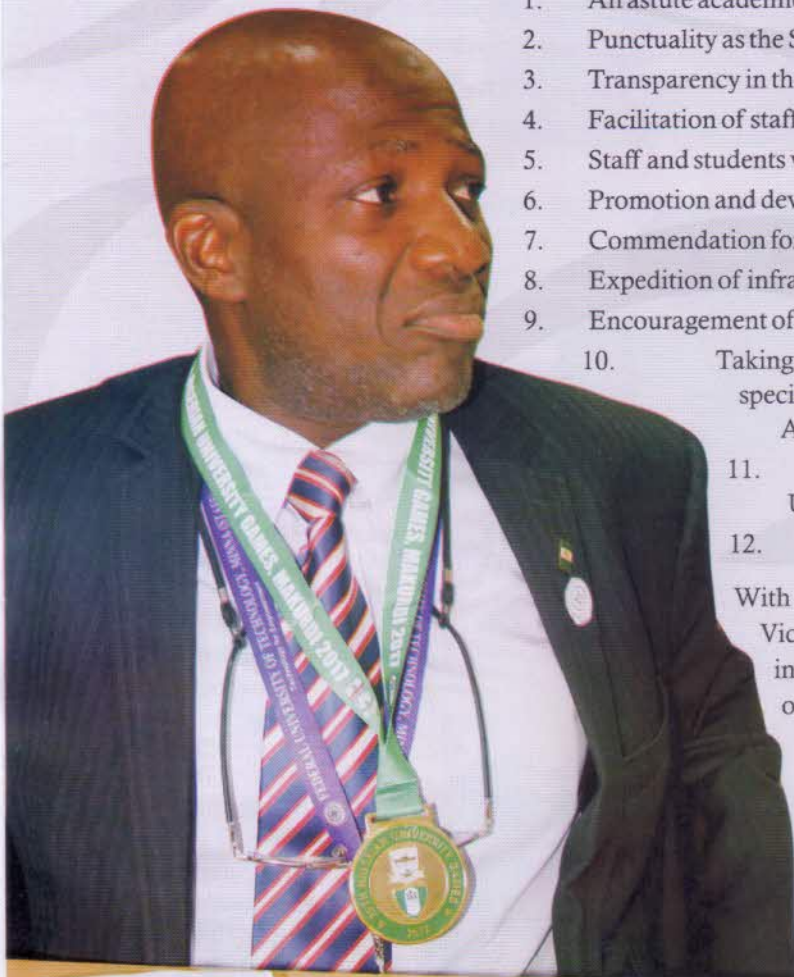
**M**y first impression about Professor Musbau Adewunmi Akanji is that he is a gentleman and a CEO. Rarely do you see a leader who is humble and effectively shows exemplary leadership in the academia. My Vice-Chancellor as I call him, is a man of vision, mission and action. Within his five years in Federal University of Technology, Minna, he has been able to bring the University to the fore in terms of academic excellence and best practices in education delivery and knowledge impart. His hallmarks include

1. An astute academic and administrator.
2. Punctuality as the Soul of business of the University.
3. Transparency in the University money matters.
4. Facilitation of staff promotions as at when due.
5. Staff and students welfare friendly.
6. Promotion and development of sports.
7. Commendation for hard work and condemnation for any form of vice.
8. Expedition of infrastructural development.
9. Encouragement of staff presence on web.
10. Taking the University to the Zenith of web ranking; first as a specialized University in Nigeria, fifth in Nigeria and 47<sup>th</sup> in Africa.
11. Promotion of peace and unity within and outside the University.
12. A God fearing human being

With all the above in mind, I salute and congratulate my amiable Vice-Chancellor and Web master as he exits the University with indelible footprints in the sands of time of Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria and the academic world.

I also wish to joyfully rejoice with the incoming Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on his well deserved appointment and inauguration as the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

I wish you success in the years ahead as you pilot the affairs of FUTMinna.



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*Signed*  
**Professor J. O. OYERO**

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# PROF MA'AJI PROFFERS SOLUTION TO UNEMPLOYMENT



*Prof. Ma'aji explaining a point while delivering his lecture*

**T**he Nigerian economy is facing a huge rate of unemployment, large numbers of graduates coming out of the formal school system with no hope for employment, hence the need to strengthen Technology, Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Prof Abdullahi Shehu Ma'aji, Department of Industrial and Technology Education, School of Science and Technology Education (SSTE) made this assertion when he delivered the 52nd Inaugural Lecture of the University titled: Technology, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Providing Appropriate Workforce for Nigerian Economy: Blue or white, Where Lie The Challenges? at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Main Campus.

Prof. Ma'aji explained that Technology, Vocational Education and Training is the acquisition of the practical skills, knowledge and awareness that are required in order to be engaged in a certain occupation which would become a potential solution to overcome the fast growing unemployment rate because of its ability to provide appropriate skilled workforce to the labour market.

The don who is also the Director, FUTMIN Ventures noted that one of the main reasons for the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria is the mismatch in the

educational system, saying that there is need to restructure the educational system to include technical and vocational training, which would take care of skill acquisition in various fields.

He stated that in addition to vocational skills, business and agricultural skills, it is essential to incorporate political and citizenship skills into the curriculum.

The erudite scholar who described white collar jobs as those formal jobs and blue collar jobs as non-formal jobs said Technical and Vocational Education (TVE) are positioned to train the entrepreneurial labour force that is needed in Nigeria to generate wealth and come out of poverty.

He noted that the youth, poor, vulnerable, less academically brilliant and school dropouts can benefit from TVE.

The Professor of Industrial and Technology Education recommended an assessment of the existing TVET system in the country, including budget utilization, strengths, weaknesses and deficiencies in order to effectively link the TVET strategy to other

national policies in the area of education, training, employment and socio-economic development.

The Inaugural Lecturer said it is also necessary to link training to the needs of the labour market, adding that TVET must be demand-driven rather than supply-driven and should revolve around the skills demanded in the labour market.

He stressed the need for government to make efforts to train new technical teachers, retrain existing ones, empower TVET institutions to manufacture their own training tools and equipment as well as to also motivate them through equitable remuneration packages and incentives.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, in his remark emphasized the importance of inaugural lecture in the life of a Professor saying that he was impressed at the large number of visitors who attended the event.

The VC also used the event to invite members of the University community and the general public to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University slated for Thursday, August 10, 2017 at the same venue. Prof. Akanji thanked everybody for attending, wishing them journey mercies back to their respective destinations.



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10 years. The four are Ibadan, Abeokuta, Akure and Ile-Ife, all of them in the Southwest. So, if it were the best, everybody would ask for 10 years. Council saw the wisdom and I told them, lets now come back here. I took the list of Senate and told them that if you asked for 10 years, only this number of people will qualify and many of them are not qualified because of age; they are more than 65. So I told them the number that will be qualified. Then in the case of Niger State, there are 41, federal universities in Nigeria and their child is not VC in any one. If you asked

were against my position.

Some people went to Abuja, to prevail on the Federal Ministry of Education to call for a withdrawal of the advertisement. The Ministry called me. I went and explained our position to them and they found it convincing. At Senate, I told them that I am going by December, I want a new VC to emerge three months before the expiration of my tenure. I wanted a VC to emerge so that if we have quarrel, we have three months to settle the quarrel. Some people alleged that I wanted A and B. I asked



for 10 years of professorship, only two people would qualify from Niger. If you asked for zero years, eight people would qualify. Therefore, let us give everybody an equal chance.

Another reason I gave is that, I was an associate professor and as associate professor, I could not be appointed head of department in Ilorin but here, I have lecturer I as HOD; I have senior lecturer as Dean. So the experience I did not have as a professor elsewhere, a lecturer I has it here. And as VC I am managing people; HOD is managing people, Dean is managing people. So we have this experience. In the end, out of a Council of 16 members, only three people

them to fault my argument and I told them that I don't have anybody in mind, whether yellow man or red man; I just want somebody, who love the University and who is competent.

When the new Council now came, the new Chairman of Council, because of his antecedents, he was very open because when things are open, you do not say it is because of this or that. We thank Allah we had a very, very robust interview. Everybody was happy, everybody was given a fair chance to perform. We brought experts; we brought a former VC; we brought a psychologist to see whether they have their senses intact; Federal Character Commission



came. In fact, those who contested, they were the first to congratulate the person that won because it was open. When you are doing something like this, even with the best of intention, they suspect you. We hope they will continue, but if they go back there will be problem but if everybody knows everybody is given a chance by 2022 there will be many, many more people that will be qualified; so competition will be stiffer. Concerning the transition, I have been briefing the incoming Vice-Chancellor. Fortunately, he was a member of Management until just about a year ago. Not many things are new to him, but any major thing that we do now, he will be part of it so that he will know why certain decisions are taken. It will be easier for him to follow the transition we are planning for. Because the day I should hand over (December 3, 2017) is a Sunday, we said we should take it (handing over) to Friday because if you shift it to Monday, any action taken by me that day will be illegal.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Funding has been the bane of Nigerian universities in recent times; and recently the issue of salary shortfall came to the fore; as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, how have you been able to address this problem?*

**AKANJI:** It is very problematic. The issue of funding has been a very difficult one. Because we are owned and funded by only the Federal Government, it becomes more difficult. The issue of salary shortfall started in January 2016, but because we are prudent, it really helped us to survive during that difficult period. By December 2016, all our reserve that we would have used for other projects finished because most of our staff depend only on salary. We made sure that we supplemented the shortfall in salary from the Federal Government with N25million to N30 million every month. By December 2016, we had supplemented staff salary with N263 million. But during that year, government refunded N140 million from the N263 million. In September 2017, they gave us complete salary, including what they owed us. With the payment of full salaries again in October, the era of salary shortfall ended. But for running cost, that is where the problem is. They give us an average of six - seven million naira every month but we spend nothing less than N50 million every month.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *How would you rate your administration in terms of infrastructural development of the University from 2012-2017?*

Our star project is the newly flagged off ultra-modern female hostels built through the Presidential Needs Assessment Funds. In many years to come, the hostel project will stand out in the University. In fact, the National Universities Commission (NUC) has showcased our new hostels at different fora. I am also aware that NUC

is planning to organise all Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities to come to FUT, Minna to see our new hostels. Because Federal Government gave us the same money but other Vice-Chancellors decided to build a barrack-type of hostels.

We have tried to improve the various Schools, particularly, the Schools of Agriculture and Engineering. Also, there are some counterpart-funded buildings on campus such as the WASCAL building which was constructed by the German Government. Muhammed Babangida also gave us a new radio station building. The religious bodies are also beautifying the campus with their places of worship. We would have had more but because of the problem of funding. Just look at the Department of Cyber Security project that we started in 2011. It has been hampered by lack of funding. The Federal Government will announce monies going to the tertiary institutions but they go into salaries. I think in a university, programme content is more important than structure, but we need structure to deliver lectures and to conduct practical. We started with the School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology (SEMT) building because we noticed that they used to quarrel with School of Agriculture and Agricultural

Technology for the use of classrooms. So, we constructed three blocks of classrooms for them to solve the problem and their Lecture Theatre is nearing completion. The second phase of the School Agriculture and Agricultural Technology building is at 85 percentage completion stage, while the

second phase of School of Engineering and Engineering Technology is at 65 percentage completion stage. The Engineering Workshop was constructed through special intervention by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND). We have added modesty to the architectural landscape of the University. We also planned to build a new Senate Building but it did not materialize because the money we wanted to use for the project was used to supplement staff salary. When federal government refunded the money, the gap in the cost of construction for the proposed project was too wide. I will include it in my handing over note to the new Vice-Chancellor. The little money we have was concentrated in the running cost of the University. Also, under the Build-Operate-Transfer (Bot) agreement, we have started the construction of a Petrol station on campus so that staff will not have to suffer in order to buy PMS, gas and diesel. No matter what happen in town, staff of the University are sure to get petrol at the normal price.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *The issue of certificate and transcript?*

**AKANJI:** It is very important for us to discuss the issue of certificate. As at the time I resumed office the process of

*'We now issue certificates on the day of convocation.'*



## Prof Aberuagba Makes Case For Biofuel Production



■ Prof. Aberuagba while delivering his lecture

**E**ngr. Prof. Folorunsho Aberuagba recently presented the 53rd Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna with a call for Nigeria to adopt biofuel production as an alternative to petroleum.

The Professor of Chemical Engineering pointed out during the lecture which held at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Main Campus, that the country can produce bioethanol, which he said is the current fuel of interest for automobiles on account of its biodegradability and reduced green house emissions.

In the lecture titled: "Catalytic Hydrocarbon Conversions for Transportation and Domestic Fuels

Upgrade," Prof. Aberuagba also stressed the need for Nigerian universities and research institutes to collaborate to exploit the country's sea bed and all its geo-political zones for viable mineral resources and catalyst synthesis which are of significance in the cost of petroleum and chemical products.

He opined that to ensure economic diversification, there was the need for a more aggressive reorientation of Nigerians and prudent management of revenues from petroleum resources.

The Inaugural Lecturer, who, in the course of his career has made significant contribution to hydrocarbon conversion research, took the audience through the origin of petroleum, history of oil production, petroleum refining,

catalysis among others.

In his remark, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, thanked Prof. Aberuagba for the lecture. He noted that the large presence of indigenes of Minna at the event is an indication of how well the lecturer has integrated with the community, a situation he said is good for the unity of Nigeria.

Born 61 years ago in Minna, Niger State, Aberuagba who became a Professor of Chemical Engineering in 2005 is listed by the International Biographical Centre as one of 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Cambridge Book Man of the Year 2005. He is also listed by Marguis Who's Who in Science and Engineering, among several honours.



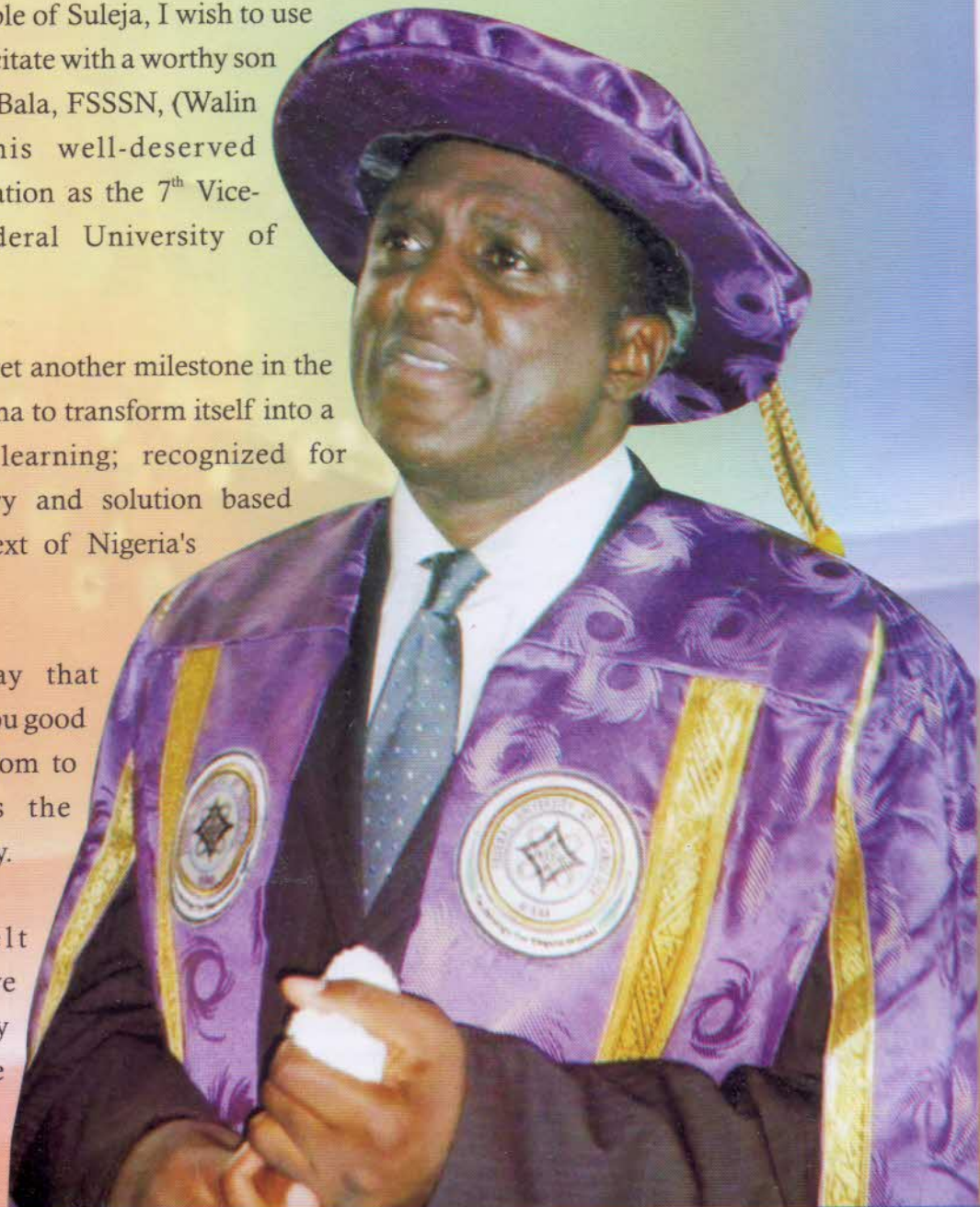
## Goodwill Message

On behalf of the good people of Suleja, I wish to use this medium to warmly felicitate with a worthy son of Suleja, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on his well-deserved appointment and inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Your appointment marks yet another milestone in the long sojourn of FUT, Minna to transform itself into a world-class citadel of learning; recognized for excellence service delivery and solution based research within the context of Nigeria's realities and needs.

In doing that, we pray that Almighty Allah will give you good health, strength and wisdom to perform your duty as the helmsman of the University.

Accept our heartfelt congratulations; and we wish you and the university success in all your future endeavours.



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSN**  
Walin Zazzau Suleja

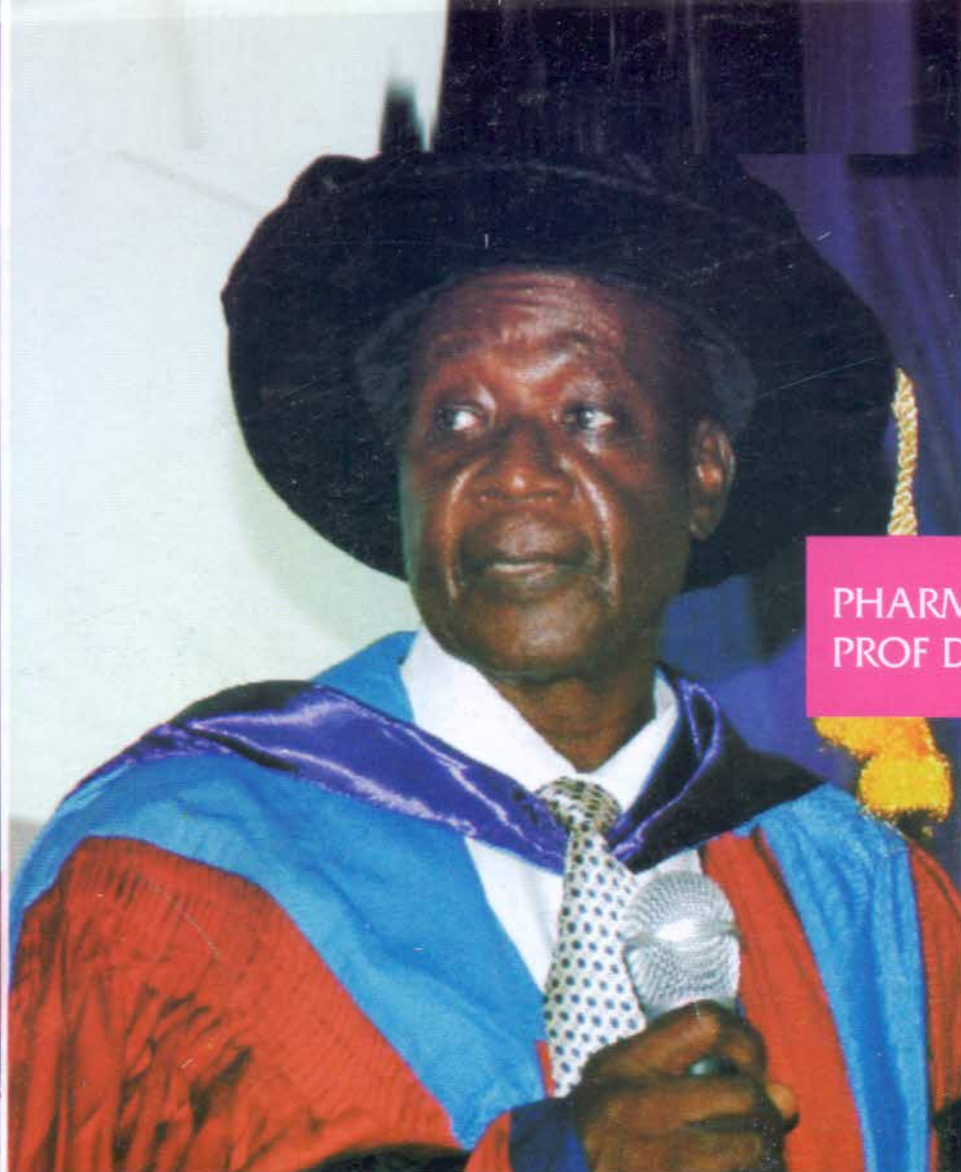


**Signed:**

His Royal Highness \_\_\_\_\_

**Mallam Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, CON**  
Sarkin Zazzau Suleja \_\_\_\_\_





## PHARMACEUTICAL DEVT: PROF DAUDA CALLS FOR SYNERGY

*Prof. Dauda presenting his lecture*

Promoting a synergy between herbalists, scientists and entrepreneurs can help establish a vibrant pharmaceutical industry in Nigeria.

Prof. Bukar Dauda of the Department of Chemistry, School of Physical Sciences (SPS), made this assertion when he delivered the 54th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

In the lecture titled "*Natural Product Chemistry and Prospects for Transforming Traditional Medicines into Modern Pharmaceuticals*," Prof. Dauda said that, if pursued in sustainable manner, the move would be a large-scale foreign exchange earner.

He maintained that in view of the country's diverse and untapped flora,

it could rival China and India that have pursued a deliberate policy of research and transformation of their traditional medicines into modern pharmaceuticals.

Prof. Dauda, however, bemoaned the vacuum in the regulation, assessment of safety, efficacy and quality control of the use of herbal medicines in West Africa, adding that research into the properties of medicinal plants has not received adequate attention, leaving traditional medical practices in their undeveloped forms.

To adequately address the problem, he called for the screening and development of the country's natural products which will in turn enhance national healthcare programmes and usher the country into large scale production of pharmaceuticals.

He disclosed that Natural Product

Chemistry has contributed immensely to the structural elucidation of many compounds used in traditional medicines, a situation that has aided the scientific study of nature and potentials of the herbs.

The Don expressed hope that with improved quality and modernisation, the traditional medical system will be integrated into the mainstream of Nigeria's medical system.

He called for a reappraisal of herbal remedies for their potential contribution to the economy and health care programme.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FAS, FNSBMB*, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for his contributions to knowledge.

He also thanked all dignitaries for attending the event.



The need to preserve and document African culture in libraries in order to pass the knowledge of the continent to future generations have been emphasized. Prof. (Mrs.) Juliana Nkechi Udensi made this known during the 55th Inaugural Lecture of the University, titled: "Cultural Information: A Gateway to Sustainable Development in Africa," delivered at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

Prof. Udensi, a Professor of Library and Information Technology, School of Information and Communication Technology described culture as a "collectivity of human activities and general principles that tend to guide ideas of a group of people with shared traditions, which is passed on and instilled into generations and reinvigorated or sustained by members of the group."

According to her, if culture stands out as the key acquisition, documentation, preservation and dissemination of the African culture in our libraries is therefore a task that must be done.

Highlighting the effects of western civilization on African culture, the don stated that the arrival of Whiteman on African shore has brought huge distortions of the well established and organized African culture. She further revealed that they disorganized African natural boundaries and indigenous institutions.

Information professionals, she advised, should apply specialized knowledge and skills to collect, record, organize, store, retrieve and disseminate printed or digital information. "Information professionals work with the intent to get the right information from the right frame in the format most suitable for use to which it is to be put and at a cost that is justified by its use." she reiterated.

On her contributions to knowledge, the first Professor in the Department of Library and Information Technology (LIT) revealed that within the past two decades, she has conducted researches to determine the extent of utilization of Africana Resources by Postgraduate lecturers and students in the Nigerian University Libraries.

Prof. Udensi also took a look at the influence of users' discipline on the

## DON CALLS FOR DOCUMENTATION, PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN CULTURE



*Prof. (Mrs.) Udensi presenting her lecture*

utilization of Africana Resources in Nigerian University Libraries. She investigated the factors that affects the utilization of Africana Resources in Nigerian Universities and the cultural values and norms of the three major tribes in Nigeria, as well as how different traditional practices sustained our identity and cultural heritage.

She found that Postgraduate (PG) lecturers, Master's and Doctoral students have varying perceptions on the usefulness of Africana resources and it affected their usage of the resources. She also discovered that the extent of usage of various Africana subject formats differ from one user to another and that poor library services hinder usage of Africana resources in Nigerian University Libraries.

The lecturer who called on Library Management to create awareness in the usage of the resources by both Arts and Science users,

recommended that University Librarians should endeavor to send qualified and experienced professionals as unit heads, equipped with ICT retrieval tools such that staff in the unit are trained and retrained in the use of ICT. Also, that new arrival of literature in Africana should be displayed at strategic places so as to attract more users.

She further stated that semi open access should be considered for the Africana resources while calling on parents to teach their children cultural norms and values by ensuring that children know their roots.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, acknowledged the array of traditional institutions present at the occasion as well as other dignitaries. He described the lecture as food for thought and a reawakening of cultural heritage and consciousness.



## Congratulatory Message



I write on behalf of staff and students of the **School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology (SEMT)** to heartily congratulate the new Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on his well-deserved appointment by the Council of the University.

We in SEMT wish you smooth take off and successful administration of the University, we also wish you God's guidance and ceaseless wisdom in piloting the affairs of our dear University.

In the same vein, we commend and appreciate the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, for the admirable manner in which he handled the affairs of the University during his five years tenure. Your tenure witnessed tremendous changes and landmark achievements on the campus.

As you end your tenure, we wish you more success in your future endeavours as well as long life and good health.



Signed:

**Prof. Emmanuel O. Oni**  
Dean, SEMT



## PROF ODOFIN MAKES CASE FOR CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE



*Prof. Odofin presenting his lecture*

**I**n view of the need to increase food security as well as manage agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity, Prof. Ayodele Joshua Odofin of the Department of Soil Science and Land Management, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) has made case for the conservation of agriculture in order to ensure the survival of Nigerian soil resources.

The don stated this when he delivered the 56th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna titled: Nigerian Soil Resources: The Neglected Base of Our National Development at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The Professor of Soil Science and Head of Department, Soil Science and Land Management stated that conversation of agriculture would increase profits, food security, preserve, and enhance the resource base of the nation as well as its environment.

Prof. Odofin disclosed that conversation of agriculture centres around three inter-related core practices namely; continuous no-or minimal mechanical soil disturbance, maintenance of a permanent organic soil cover and mixing or rotating at least three different crops, with a balanced mix of legume and non-legume crops.

According to the don, the thrust of the lecture was to draw attention to soil management techniques which majority

of Nigerian farmers must embrace if the nation's soil resources are to be exploited in a sustainable manner to supply enough food for the teeming population and reposition the agricultural sector as a base for national development.

Prof. Odofin stated that before independence, agriculture was the most important sector of the economy and accounted for more than 50% of GDP and more than 75% of export earnings. However, with the rapid expansion of the petroleum industry, agricultural development was neglected due to inadequate funding and massive importation of food items.

This he said has given rise to high food prices, hunger,

domestic inflation, depletion of foreign reserves and rural-urban migration.

The HOD noted that intensification of agriculture and agro-industrialization remains the only logical option for food import bills to be reduced .

In conservation agriculture, Prof. Odofin said planting holes are made in line with cutlass, dibble stick or jab planter for direct sowing (zero tillage) and the advantages of conservation agriculture are erosion control, time saving and labour, timely planting, elimination of tillage machinery expenses and profitability.

He, therefore, enjoined farmers to switch from tillage

agriculture to conservation agriculture and recommended that government should officially recognize conservation agriculture as a production system to be actively promoted and supported. This he said would enhance food production and sustainability.

He also recommended that conservation agriculture should be added to the schedule of Director in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and the appointment of Desk Officers for conservation agriculture which should also be replicated in all the States and the Federal Capital Territory.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, commended the Inaugural Lecturer for his presentation. He also thanked all invited guests for attending the event.



## Goodwill Message

**T**he Director and entire staff of the University Health Services heartily rejoice with Prof. Abdullahi Bala on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

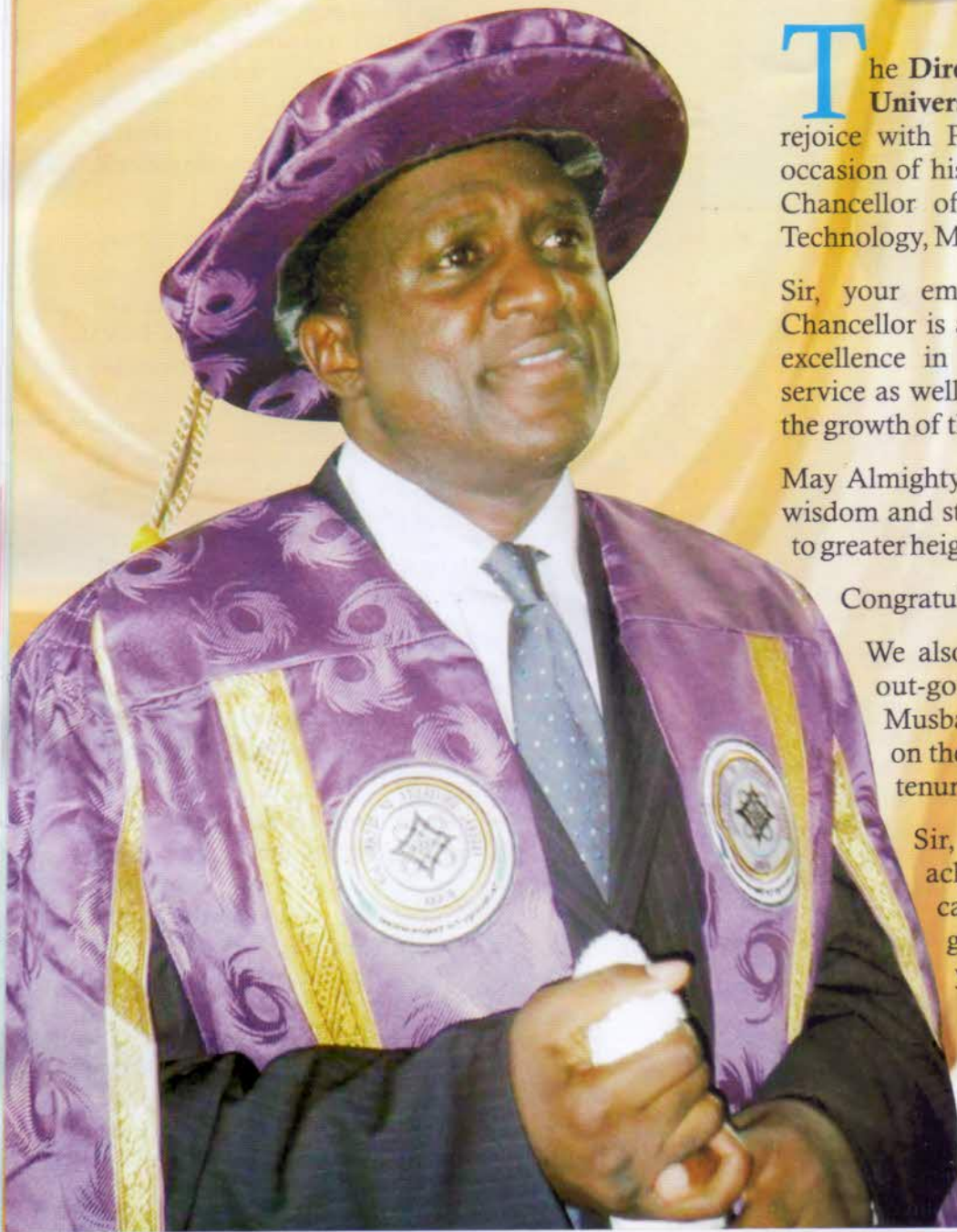
Sir, your emergence as the new Vice-Chancellor is a testimony of your years of excellence in academics and community service as well as your profound interest in the growth of the University.

May Almighty Allah enrich you with more wisdom and strength to take the University to greater heights.

Congratulations, Sir.

We also felicitate with our amiable out-going Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi, FNSBMB, FAS on the successful completion of his tenure.

Sir, we note the remarkable achievements of your tenure and can only pray Allah to grant you greater accomplishments in your further endeavours.



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN**  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Signed:

**Dr. Uthman Taofeek Adegoke,**  
Director, University Health Services.







*Prof. Abubakar presenting his lecture*

## PROF ABUBAKAR APPLIES MATHS MODELLING TO HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT

Evidence of the contributions of mathematical modelling in predicting human health and environmental conditions further came to the fore as Prof. Usman Yusuf Abubakar of the Department of Mathematics delivered the 57th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The lecture titled: "Predictive Stochastic Modelling Of Leprosy Disease, Human Health Condition And Desertification In Nigeria: The Untapped Open Secret Ingredients," was held at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

Prof. Abubakar disclosed in the lecture that he had, through mathematical modelling, studied the leprosy disease and human health condition focusing on the stages when patients were under treatment, recovered, relapsed or died due to the disease.

He also predicted the levels of likelihood of having leprosy patients with grade one and grade two disabilities, just as he had studied blood inventory in

General Hospital, Minna and human daily health condition.

On desertification in Nigeria, Prof. Abubakar applied mathematical modelling through which he had projected the amount of land lost in the savannah region of the country.

The Inaugural Lecturer, however, observed that there was a gap between mathematical model builders and the intended model users, due largely to the inability of the latter to understand fundamental mathematics

He therefore called on government and non-governmental organizations to extensively utilise the quantitative information emanating from mathematical models.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, commended Prof. Abubakar for the lecture and thanked members of the University community and the general public for attending.



# Felicitation! Felicitation!! Felicitation!!!



Prof. Akanji

Prof. Bala



## CODEL

**C**hampagnes are better poured at the successful end of tenure rather than at its beginning. That is why the entire CODEL family are rolling out chilled champagnes to celebrate Prof Musbau A. Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, modest but difficult to march achievements at FUT, Minna.

Your fatherly magnanimity towards the Centre have put the Centre in a perspective towards achieving the dream of having another 'University', within a University at FUT, Minna that will reach out to a larger community of desirous and qualified learners who are hindered by one form of limitations or the other. You will indeed be remembered for your efforts in making education affordable and accessible for such would be learners.

We celebrate with you and pray that the Almighty God will give you His divine guidance and shower you with His peace and favour in your next and other future assignments in service to humanity and God.

And to our amiable, tested and trusted incoming Vice-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Board CODEL, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, you have been for us from the beginning and now we are sure this long awaited dream of a vibrant Open Distance and e-Learning Centre in Federal University of Technology, Minna is within arm reach, we congratulate you on this your divine appointment and pray that God will grant you all that is required to make your tenure a remarkable success.



Signed:

**Prof. Aibinu Musa Abiodun**  
Director, CODEL



Cont'd from page 57

certificate and transcript collections was nothing to write home about. And that was why the University alumni were not happy with the University. They did not like us. In my first outing as Vice-Chancellor of the University after two weeks, I attended a social function at Ilorin, when I was introduced at the event, I did not know that some people were waiting for me. They said to me that they were graduates of the University some five, six, ten years ago and that they have missed many job and scholarship opportunities because of lack of issuance of certificate by the University. I was touched. So, when I got back to Minna the next week, I summoned those in charge and tasked them to chart a roadmap on how to address the problem because I was part of those who solved the problem of transcript at University of Ilorin.

We invited different agents to come and talk to us about certificate. By 2014, we had solved the problem of certificate in the University. We now issue certificates on the day of convocation. Then we challenged the Registry and Information Technology Services on the issue of transcript. I am pleased to inform you that graduands now get their transcripts within two weeks of application. If you check our financial records every week, you will realize that we are now making so much money from the collection of certificates and transcripts. At the initial stage, we printed eight years certificates in arrears. It got finished and we had to request for another 20,000 copies of the certificates. We print our certificates from second best Security Company in Europe. It has many security features. We saw that certificate issuance is fundamental to us. Some Universities in Nigeria are still using manual

method of certificate production. It is fraud-prone. It may interest you to know that we have certificates for the next four years. By two or three weeks after resumption, I and the new VC will go to UK for change of signature for the certificates.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Concerning academic content, in line with NUC regulation, how would you rate the University in the area of programme accreditation?*

**AKANJI:** All our programmes are accredited. The programmes that were due in May, 2017 were accredited. Ten programmes got full accreditation while one programme got interim accreditation. Some are also due for accreditation. In November, 2017, three departments will be up for accreditation. In terms of academic content we are doing well. The University that has 70 percent of its programmes accredited is doing very well. In our case, we have ours at 98 percent accreditation, except for those who are due for accreditation this year.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *There is a problem in Nigeria now, in FUT, Minna about five departments would not admit fresh students because of the directive by the Federal Ministry of Education mandating universities to adhere to their mandate. Sir, what is really the problem?*

**AKANJI:** Just like the problem of Nigeria, where we take action before we look for justification. They told us in Abuja that as a specialised university, that Departments of Information and Media Technology, Library and Information Technology, Project Management, Transport Management and Entrepreneurship and Business Studies have been selected for delisted. Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State was the



FUTMINNANews

Prof. Akanji during the interview with FUTMinna Newsletter crew: Mustapha Alhassan (L) and Ugboaja Stanley



**Cont'd from page 67**

most affected. After delisting five of our departments.

In our admission request this year, some people still choose some of the programmes because they did not know that it has been delisted. After delisting of some programmes, government saw that they should not have delisted some of them. Government set-up a committee to look into the problem, and I was appointed Chairman of the Committee. We are almost ready with our report. No justification for government's action. Because everybody is talking of entrepreneurship and you delisted it from the University's programme. Project Management is part of Engineering; they delisted because it has Management in its name, because we are University of Technology. Transport Management was also delisted from the University programmes. The Library and Information Technology we are running here is different from Library Science they are running in other Universities. They argued that Library should be in conventional universities. Our report will correct it against 2018/2019. But they have reasons because we now see a university of agriculture running a Medicine programme.

Some Universities introduced such programmes because they are looking for money. You see university of technology running programmes with all sorts of names; Business Administration Technology, Accounting Technology etc. We are in support that such programmes should be delisted from specialised universities.

I was confident that we did not have any problem, until we

got to the meeting. I got to know that they had already delisted us. They said it is just for our information. I am optimistic that by 2018/2019 academic session, the programmes delisted will come back to us.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER: What about Department of Information and Media Technology?**

**AKANJI:** The same problem of lack of understanding on what the programme entails. They said they thought it is Mass Communication whereas it is the employment of Technology for Mass Communication. At the end of the day, some universities will have problem. For instance university of agriculture doing Accounting Technology doing MBA because that is where the money is. We hope that the problem will be addressed soon.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER: Please throw more light on the Earth Dam Project Sir?**

**AKANJI:** The project is for the University. There is a village close to the site, they will also benefit from it. We are trying to address the water problem here in Gidan Kwano Campus. The nearest water board to the University is Chanchaga, the waiting period for the water tanker to go and come back to the campus is about one hour, five minutes, if there is no queue or traffic. We have dug so many boreholes on campus; they are no longer functional except during rainy season. So, I saw that universities that do not have water problem have their dams. So, when the Presidential Needs Assessment came, we made a case for the earth dam and it was approved. The money we have



*Prof. Akanji making a point during the interview*

*Cont'd in page 73*



## TACKLING POST HARVEST LOSSES WILL GUARANTEE FOOD SECURITY - PROF IDAH

The 58th Inaugural Lecture of Federal University of Technology, Minna, was delivered by Prof. Peter Aba Idah. The Lecturer indeed, left no one in doubt after the lecture that, "increase in food production alone cannot ensure the needed food security if Post Harvest Losses (PHL) are not reduced to the barest minimum."

He made this assertion while delivering the 58th Inaugural Lecture titled: "The War Against Post Harvest Losses In Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: My Role," at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The Professor of Agriculture and Bioresources Engineering said Post Harvest Loss is the degradation in both quantity and quality of food from harvest to consumption. He highlighted the quality losses to include those that affect nutrient composition acceptability and edibility of a given product. On the other hand, he said, quantitative losses are the loss of the amount of a product and these losses are more common in the developing countries.

The don who is the current Chairman of the University's Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) noted that the primary challenges in post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables were during transportation stage of the supply chain, which include bad roads and lack of refrigerated transport systems.

The lecturer stressed that generally, there is low consumption of fruits and vegetables in developing countries, while urging for high consumption of the agricultural produce as it would reduce many chronic diseases such as stroke, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease and cancer.



*Prof. Idah while delivering his lecture*

Prof. Idah disclosed that the high level of mechanical damage and diseases are clear indication of the need to improve the techniques of handling of perishable food items like fruits and vegetables, adding that the journey from farm to the consumer is extremely complex.

The scholar selected fresh tomato fruit as the focus of his lecture. According to him, fruit is very important to the Nigerian economy as it is a good source of Vitamins C and A. Its production generates both urban-rural employment as well as income through widespread cultivation. The crop also expands export trade. He added.

Highlighting his contributions to knowledge, on post harvest losses in fresh tomatoes for the past 25 years, the lecturer found out that there is lack of suitable packaging containers and vehicles for transporting the perishable product. He also found that most of the losses result from mechanical damage, while calling for

the provision of adequate and appropriate handling devices that will minimize the incidence of mechanical damage to the fresh produce on transit.

He recommended the need for packing houses to serve as places for pre-shipment activities as practiced in developed countries and that efforts should be made towards producing a customised vehicle for transportation of fruits and vegetables in the country.

There is the need, he said, for government to rehabilitate roads in the country in order to reduce the incidence of mechanical damage of the fresh produce as a result of vibration and impact during transportation.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, maintained that it is occasions like this that make the University tick and that the institution is blessed with erudite scholars that are eager to showcase their contributions to knowledge.





*Prof. Makun while delivering his lecture*

## PROF MAKUN CALLS FOR NATIONAL MYCOTOXIN POLICY

**D**isturbed by the health hazards of mycotoxins which often translate to food insecurity and financial burden on national health sector, Prof. Hussaini Anthony Makun, Department of Biochemistry of the Federal University of Technology, Minna has called for national mycotoxin policy for ensure food safety and security.

The Inaugural Lecturer who is also the Director, Directorate of Research, Innovation and Development (DRID) stated this when he delivered the 59<sup>th</sup> inaugural lecture of the University titled: Improving Public Health and International Trade Through Mycotoxin Control at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The don said the national mycotoxin policy would give policy directions to government, food regulatory agencies and stakeholders in the food value chain. He disclosed that the non-existence of national mycotoxin policy in Nigeria had contributed to the rejection of export food commodities from international trade which has adversely affected the national economy.

The Inaugural Lecturer noted that there are over three thousand mycotoxins found in foods, adding that only five of them have impact on

agriculture, public health and economy.

The Director of DRID said the toxins are unacceptable and are associated with the increase severity and incidence of liver, kidney, malnutrition, infertility, HIV/AIDs, cancer and other infectious diseases which have adverse impact on international trade.

The scholar, however, recommended that pre-harvest and post-harvest mycotoxin intervention strategies including fungi resistant cultivation; appropriate to soil types and tillage methods should be adopted by farmers.

The professor of Biochemistry called on the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to regulate contaminants in food commodities within the country and to also establish regional laboratories that would conduct annual surveillance to identify contaminants to regulate, communicate risks of mycotoxin contamination and train farmers on how to eliminate them before enforcing legislated limits.

Prof. Makun further urged the Standard Organization of Nigeria to conduct national toxicological and risk analysis of mycotoxins and other contaminants in Nigeria dietary system as well as use the generated

data to set national standards that would fit Nigerian agricultural and cultural system instead of just adopting international standards.

He advocated that people's dietary system should include mycotoxins resistant crops like acha, millet. Fresh root, tuber and vegetables.

"The fate of Nigeria lies in the hands of the academic and the military institutions. While the soldiers keep it united, the academics are expected to innovate and convert it to a wealthy knowledge based nation", he posited.

The don and his siblings later announced an endowment fund of N500, 000 in honour of their late father for the best graduating student in Mathematics.

In his remark at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS expressed gratitude to the lecturer and his family members for giving back to the University through the endowment fund, adding that he would informed the University Senate about the donation.

Prof. Akanji disclosed that the fund would take effect from the 2018 convocation ceremony.

"This kind of gesture stays in perpetuity because it will live after the donor", he enthused.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked people for attending the event and also urged them to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> inaugural lecture of the University.



## PUNCH NEWSPAPER DONATES BOOKS TO FUTMINNA

The Punch Newspapers Nigeria Limited has donated books covering articles on Personal Finance and Management to the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Presenting the books at a brief ceremony held at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, the Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of the Newspaper, Mr. Ademola Osinubi, who was represented by Mr. Enyioha Opara, Niger State Correspondent of the newspaper said the books were being donated as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of promoting functional education and development of entrepreneurial skills in the country.

Mr. Osinubi noted that the books were being given to selected universities in Nigeria that have played their role, noting that FUT, Minna is one of such as the VC has performed very well.

The MD stressed that they are happy that Nigeria has come to the realisation that its higher institutions of learning can no longer continue to churn out graduates that have no entrepreneurial skills in view of the spiralling graduate unemployment, adding that the books provide useful information on the stark

economic realities facing the country and offer practical solutions to them.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, while expressing gratitude noted that the books are coming at a very important time in the University as FUT, Minna is the first university in Nigeria to establish a School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology.

He said the specialised books will be distributed to the University Library and School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology and put to judicious use.

Prof. Akanji revealed that getting jobs by graduates is a herculean task and in view of that, the curriculum is being arranged in such a way that whatever course is being studied, entrepreneurship is embedded in it.

The helmsman also urged the

Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists in Niger State to continue as partners in progress with the University even after his exit.

The books donated are compilation of articles, published in the Punch Newspaper between 2004 and 2009 with the following titles: Managing a Successful Small Scale Business, Job Hunting and Career Success and Building Entrepreneurial Skills (Vol. I and II).



R-L: The representative of Punch MD/Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Enyioha Opara presenting the books to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji



Prof. Akanji

Prof. Bala

The entire crew of FUT, Minna Newsletter heartily rejoice with the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji and welcome the new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala on board



## FUTMinna Alumnus Donates N.5m To EBS

Alumni involvement in activities of the Federal University of Technology, Minna has again yielded fruit as an individual has donated the sum of 500 thousand naira to the Department of Entrepreneurship and Business Studies.

Amb. Nmar Ahmed made the donation during the lecture series, which was part of activities marking the 2017 EBS Week, where he spoke on the topic: "Benefits of Being an Entrepreneur: My Success Story."

Amb. Ahmed who is Nigeria's Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations is also the CEO of One Links Consult Ltd, Abuja and founder, Igreen Africa, graduated from the Department of Estate Management 12 years ago.

Amb. Ahmed said the donation is meant to support the department in its bid to establish an incubation laboratory that

would house different equipment to train EBS students on skill acquisition.

Speaking during the courtesy visit, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, said the gesture would serve as motivation to students.

He expressed delight that his determination to ensure deeper involvement of alumni in the

University's activities is materialising.

The VC thanked Amb. Ahmed for the visit and donation. Prof. Akanji also disclosed that by September this year, FUT, Minna alumni from all over Nigeria and beyond, will converge for a first-of-its-kind meeting in the institution.



Amb. Ahmed presenting the cheque to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji while the HOD EBS, Dr. (Mrs.) Adeyeye looks on with keen interest

## NUC COMMENDS PROF YAHAYA, DONATES BOOKS TO FUTMINNA

The Director, Academic Planning Unit of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Yusuph Yahaya has presented about 60 text books to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, for the benefit of staff and students.

Prof. Yahaya said the books were donated to the University by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in appreciation of his work as Chairman, Committee of Directors of Academic Planning of Nigerian Universities (CODAPNU) and for ensuring a well organized CODAPNU Conference. The Director had also presented a paper titled: "Relevance of Data in University Management," at the Conference.

Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, who received the books on behalf of the University appreciated the kind gesture of NUC.



Prof. Yahaya (R) presenting the books to the Vice-Chancellor



**Cont'd from page 68**

now, is just to construct the dam. The next stage will be treatment, reticulation and to transport the water from the dam to the campus. It is about 4-phase project. By the time it will be completed we would have solved our water problem.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Please tell us specifically those things you are pleased with that you achieved.*

**AKANJI:** I want that to be said after me. One thing that I am happy about is the issue of timing in the University. Nobody can deny the fact that when FUT, Minna said it event will commence by 10 O'clock, it must be 10 O'clock on the dot. Even in town and at high government circles. You may recall that we had a convocation that started before the arrival of dignitaries. The following year, they all came 45 minutes before time. We had an Inaugural Lecture that the wife of the lecturer was not around by 2:30 pm, we started. Since then, others bring their wives ahead of time. I scheduled a meeting with the committee of Deans for 2p.m. I got there five minutes to 2pm, and only one person was around. The next day, I was to meet with Senate by 10 a.m. They told themselves that the VC would come before the time. When I got there, they were all seated. I have instituted the culture of timeliness at all University functions. A university should be known for time consciousness. I have respect for everybody regardless of status.

All what I achieved during my tenure is to the glory of God and everybody.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Talking about your family; in the last five years, how have they coped with your frequent absence from home and judging from the hectic nature of your job as Vice-Chancellor?*

**AKANJI:** I am fortunate that I don't have a baby at home. My baby is 33 years old. So, all of them are settled in different locations. It is only my wife that is managing with the frequent absence from the house. In fact, we are both managing ourselves. But, she appreciates the fact that the nature of my present job is hectic. She occupies herself by travelling after her retirement from service. She tries to do things at home alone but mostly she travels. The issue of my seriousness with my job didn't just start today, even when my kids were young. I don't play with my job and other given assignments. Once I accept a job, I don't joke with it. My wife has been in charge of the home front.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Recently, some Vice-Chancellors have complained about the challenge of accessing TETFUND money; how can this problem be addressed?*

The problem is that people want to access the money without recourse to TETFUND guidelines. TETFUND said, this is how you can access this money but some



universities want it the other way. For example, I want to give you money and I ask you to come by 10 a.m. and you didn't show up; that means you don't need the money.

*'I think the issue of how I want to be remembered should be answered by people and not me. But I want to be remembered as somebody that is kind, somebody that will not want to deliberately do what is wrong.'*

Though, there are some of the rules that we don't agree with but because we need the money, we had to adhere to it. For example, look at the Academic Publishing Centre meant for the North-Central zone, it is owned by TETFUND and it has been commissioned since 2015. It has not been put to use because of non-available of critical printing equipment. We told TETFUND that a house not used would

degenerate, that they should allow us use the building, pending when they will need it. They said they would get back to us in two weeks time. It is more than a year now and we have not heard anything from them. They have their rules that you must abide with in order to access the money.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *What impression of FUT, Minna would you be leaving with by December 3, 2017.*

**AKANJI:** My first impression is that God has favoured me to work here. Those that I have worked with here have good intentions. I am leaving with the impression that I worked in a place where I was not treated like a stranger.

**FUTMINNA NEWSLETTER:** *Finally sir, what would you love to be remembered for?*

**AKANJI:** You cannot force people to remember you. People will definitely have different impressions about me. For example, some past executive members of FUT Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society now see me as a devil because I didn't allow them to mismanage staff money in their custody. Some people see me as humble person. I think the issue of how I want to be remembered should be answered by people and not me. But I want to be remembered as somebody that is kind, somebody that will not want to deliberately do what is wrong. Though, I don't like to hurt people but I can descend on people if they deserve it. Above all, I want to be seen as a person who tries to be just.



## PG STUDENTS DONATE BOOKS TO FUTMINNA



VC, Prof. A.Kanji (3rd R), University Librarian, Dr. Jibril Alhassan (2nd R), Dean SAAT, Prof. Reuben Kolo (3rd L), Prof. Job (1st L), Mrs. Sallawu (1st R) and a staff from the Department in a group photograph

In fulfillment of the promise made by the Postgraduate students of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna to donate books in commemoration of the 45th Inaugural Lecture delivered by Prof. Job Nmadu, the

students have donated six textbooks worth about N100,000.00 to the Departmental Library to support teaching, research and learning.

Presenting the books on behalf of the donors at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Mrs. Halima Sallawu said that the donation was to appreciate Prof.

Nmadu for his guidance, mentoring and all the necessary assistance they received from him during the course of their studies, which she said can never be quantified. The books are of various categories particularly in the field of Agricultural Science and Technology.

Mrs. Sallawu also commended FUT, Minna for the knowledge impacted on them which has changed them both morally and academically.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, appreciated the students kind gesture and pledged that the books would be put into proper use.

Prof. Akanji noted that the occasion cannot be gloss over because they use their money buying books because they felt they benefited from guidance and mentoring in the University.

He also use the occasion to inform them that those applying for certificate, the maximum period it would take them to get it is two (2) weeks.

Present during the presentations were members of staff of the Department.

## 300L SAAT Students Procure Protective Field Coats

The 300 level students of the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) have procured and launched protective field coats. The event took place recently at the SAAT Lecture Room.

The Dean, SAAT, Prof. Reuben Kolo, while addressing the students said that it was the first time students of the School would procure field coats which will be used during their practicals in the farm.

The Dean said he was very proud of the students for taking the initiative to procure the protective field coats while advising them to also get protective boots as well.

He stated that the coats and boots would protect them from injuries and accidents while working on the farm.

Prof. Kolo further implored them to continually come up with ideas that would benefit them and the University as a whole, and promised them of the School's support in all their programmes.



The Dean, Prof. Kolo (m) flanked by staff and students in a group photograph after the event

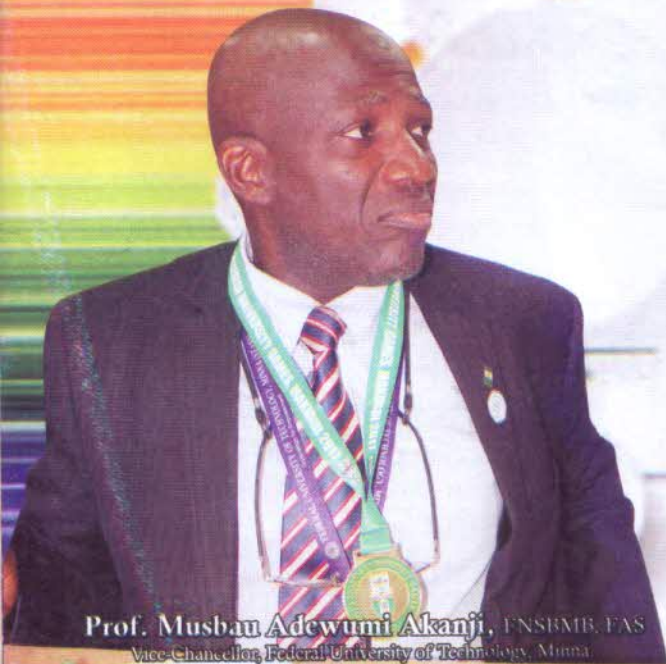




# Congratulations To Our Dons

On behalf of the entire staff and students of the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Federal University of Technology, Minna, I wish to felicitate with the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the University, **Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS**, on the successful completion of his tenure. We would never forget your good leadership style, open door policy that you operated throughout your tenure and your contributions to the development of SAAT and the University in general. It is our prayer that God would grant you long life, good health and divine strength to do greater things in the nearest future.

I also wish to use this opportunity to felicitate with one of our own from the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Prof. Abdullahi Bala, who will be inaugurated today as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University. We wish you God's divine guidance and knowledge so that you can build on the good works of your predecessor and surpass it.



**Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS**  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna



**Signed: Prof. R. J. KOLO**  
Dean, SAAT



## University Seminar and Colloquium Committee Federal University of Technology

P.M.B. 46, Minna, Niger State

### Felicitations!

The Chairman, and the entire members of the University Seminar and Colloquium Committee (US & CC) felicitate with the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB**, on his laudable achievements particularly on the heights to which he and his team had lifted inaugural lecture presentation in Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Certainly, he has left indelible marks in the University. We say more powers to his elbow as he departs the University.

We also congratulate the incoming Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN** for emerging as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of FUT, Minna at the moment. We wish him divine guidance as he steers the affairs of the University. The largest room in the world is the room for improvement, we pray Almighty God to give him and his team the divine wisdom to positively impact on the legacies of Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji.

Long Live FUT Minna!

Long Live Nigeria!!



**Prof. B. A. Ayanwale**  
(Chairman, US & CC)



**Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS**  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna



# DON URGES RESEARCHERS TO PUBLISH IN HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS

...Dubious, Predatory Journals Will No Longer Be Accepted - VC



*Dr. Olatomiwa delivering his lecture*

Writing a good research paper for publication in reputable high impact journals is important as not only will the research become more visible, but it will also attract more readers which will potentially increase the researcher's citations, build stronger reputation and expand the researcher's professional network, the 2016 winner of FUT, Minna award for highest number of publications in high impact journals, Dr. Lanre Olatomiwa has said.

The Don stated this when he delivered a public lecture titled: "Overcoming the Challenges of Publishing in High Impact Journal: Increasing Citations and Visibility" held at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

Dr. Olatomiwa disclosed that citation is all about acknowledging the original author of a work or article, adding that it helps in strengthening the researcher's work

by lending outside support to ideas, opening opportunity for collaboration and boosting the ranking of the researcher's institution.

On how to publish in reputable journals, he advised researchers to always look at the journal scope, relevance to their field, quality or reputation of the journal, peer review, publication speed and journal ranking.

He noted that publishers want a research paper that would add to knowledge, that is well written, be of significance, provide enlightening discussion and, above all, comply with journal requirements and international standards.

The Brightsparks scholar identified high similarity index, poorly written manuscripts, paper that is not within the scope of the journal and lack of novelty as some of the reasons why papers are often rejected by publishers.

To overcome the challenges of publishing in high impact journals, he urged researchers to adhere to the journal's format and to make use of online tools to check the status of journals before submitting their papers.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FAS, FNSBMB, said in line with global best practices, the University has been urging researchers to publish in reputable journals in order to boost the institution's ranking.

Prof. Akanji said the University Management instituted an award last year in order to encourage researchers to publish their works in high impact journals, adding that academic staff promotion as from 2019 would be based on papers that are published in high impact factor journals.

"We will no longer accept papers that are published in dubious, standalone and predatory journals for academic staff promotion," the VC disclosed.

The Vice-Chancellor, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Oluwole Olanmi Morenikeji disclosed that publishing in high impact factor journals is not a difficult task and urged researchers to form research groups in order to attract grants as well as publish their findings in reputable journals.

Dr. Olatomiwa is a lecturer in the Department of Electrical/Electronics Engineering, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology (SEET), FUT, Minna.



## ADOPT PRIVATE SECTOR TECHNIQUES

- EX - OAU REGISTRAR URGES VARSITY ADMINISTRATORS

To stem the tide of misconceptions about the Registry in Nigerian universities, administrators in the ivory towers will have to utilise management techniques that have impacted positively on the success of private sector organisations.

Former Registrar of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Mr. Ayorinde Ogunraku (JP) stated this yesterday when he delivered the second Annual Registry Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna at the Caverton Lecture Hall, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), Main Campus.

The occasion also featured the unveiling of ANUPA Horizon magazine, a publication the Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA) FUTMinna Branch by a former Registrar of the University, Mrs. Larai S. Ahmed as well as presentation of awards to all the former Registrars of the institution (two posthumous and two living) for their meritorious service.

In the lecture titled: "Stemming The Increasing Tide Of Misconceptions About Registry In Nigerian Universities," Mr. Ogunraku maintained that the traditional model of university administration of the past, which he described as reactive, has become untenable in the face of emerging global trends, hence the need for paradigm shift.

He therefore enjoined the Registry of Nigerian universities to uphold accountability and high ethical standard in the performance of their duties and adopt practices that will change the perception of stakeholders who hold such misconceptions.

The former Registrar who captured the misconceptions in four broad areas - architecture of the registry, its functions and functionalities, the process of performing its mandates and the personnel engaged to carry out its functions - noted that misconceptions derived from the experiences of the public and the customers the administrators deal with, a situation that necessitates striving to change such views to admiration which the entire university enterprise will benefit from.



Mr. Ayorinde Ogunraku delivering the 2nd Annual Registry Lecture

He pointed out that administrators are essential to the performance of university business and posited that only quality staff with good academic backgrounds be recruited into the administrative cadre to ensure effective and efficient service delivery as the academia and the stakeholders they deal with are peculiar people with great expectations.

Mr. Ogunraku frowned at the confrontational postures between administrators and academics and stressed the need for training to enable them understand their roles in the university systems.

"There must be constant positive engagements between the duo for the actualisation of the university mandates. Complementarity, rather than competition is the game for advancement," he added.

Earlier in his speech, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS, FNSBMB, disclosed that there has been a remarkable improvement in service delivery since the first in the Registry lecture series held last year, adding that the impact of such lectures on staff members is everlasting.

Describing a university as an organisational system comprising groups performing inter-dependent and inseparable functions, Prof. Akanji said while each group should be cohesive, all

groups should have unmixed trust in order to achieve its mandate.

He expressed appreciation to successive Registrars of the University for laying the solid foundation that has manifested in the robust functionality of the administrative machinery of the institution.

Prof. Akanji urged other non-teaching units to see the Annual Registry Lecture as a challenge.

In her welcome address, the Registrar of the University, Mrs. Victoria Nnawo Kolo said the lecture would help stakeholders understand misgivings relating to the operations of the Registry in the universities.

She thanked the Registry staff for their support, adding that there is noticeable improvement in the discharge of their statutory duties.

The Registrar disclosed that the University was honouring the past Registrars because of their contributions for which

the institution remains indebted.

The former Registrars honoured were: Late Dr. Bitrus P.Sawa (1st Registrar, 1983-1986); Mrs. Larai S. Ahmed (2nd Registrar, 1988 - 1993); Late Alhaji Umaru Abubakar Sadiq (Acted 1986-1988 & 1993-1998; 3rd Registrar, 1998 - 2003); and Mal. Muhammad Dattijo Usman (Acted 2003 - 2007; 4th Registrar, 2007 - 2012).



## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS CALLED TO MAINTAIN UNIVERSITY CULTURE

**A** call has been made to university administrators to maintain university culture in order to get

better results. The call was made by the former Registrar, University of Ibadan, Chief Mojisola Ladipo,

FNIM, meanwhile delivery a public lecture titled "University Culture and Ceremonies: Mindfulness as a Key Factor," on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The former Registrar, University of Ibadan pointed out that universities

have come a long way and have been influenced by their antecedents universally in spite of local culture or flavour and that certain norms are universal which make universities distinct from other higher institutions.

The seasoned administrator, said culture defines behaviour, ethics and values and it drives the strategy of the institutions

for delivering on its mission adding that there is a universal academic culture borne out of the antecedents which define universities worldwide as centres of learning.

The administrative don bemoaned how university ceremonies in Nigeria have become a market place in which there is no order or decorum as a consequence of subsuming the academia under our culture of expediency. She stressed that the academia, have to uphold best practices, values and heritage.

Speaking further, Chief Mrs. Ladipo

stated that matriculation and convocation ceremonies are the

vehicles through which university share their mission and vision and showcase their excellence to the entire world, adding that it is also the period to celebrate their fundamental purpose which is to provide students with transformative educational experience and instill in them a passion for learning.

She further called on all stakeholders to take up their responsibilities to perform university ceremonies in a very dignified manners that shows decorum, discipline and portrays the best tradition of university.

"The administrators duty is to uphold the dignity of thought and learning and maintain exact standard in academic ceremonies," Chief Mrs. Ladipo echoed. In his remark, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau

Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, thanked the lecturer for her rich presentation. He disclosed that FUT, Minna is doing excellently, well in ranking but we need to maintain this position by constantly aspiring to improve on its performance and put in more energy and innovation to stay on top, which is why an expert has been called on to address the university culture.

"We would imbibe all the points highlighted by the lecturer on university culture, improve on the ones we already do and start on the ones we don't do to achieve best practices," Prof. Akanji stated.



*Chief (Mrs.) Ladipo presenting her paper*



**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY  
(OFFICE OF THE DEAN)**



20<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL OF  
ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY,  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA.**

The Dean, on behalf of staff and the entire students of SEET heartily congratulate our out-going Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji** on successful completion of his tenure as the Vice-Chancellor of this great institution and on the historic, smooth and seamless handing over to the new Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Abdullahi Bala**. We are proud to be associated with you for your selfless sacrifices and commitment to work which moved the university to become the BEST among the Specialized University in Nigeria. Surely we shall miss you and your commitment to SEET.

We pray to the Almighty God to continue to strengthen you, grant you long life and good health to serve Nigeria and humanity at large. We also wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. Congratulations!!!



**Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji**, FNSBMB, FAS  
Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

**FELICITATION MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL OF  
ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY,  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA.**

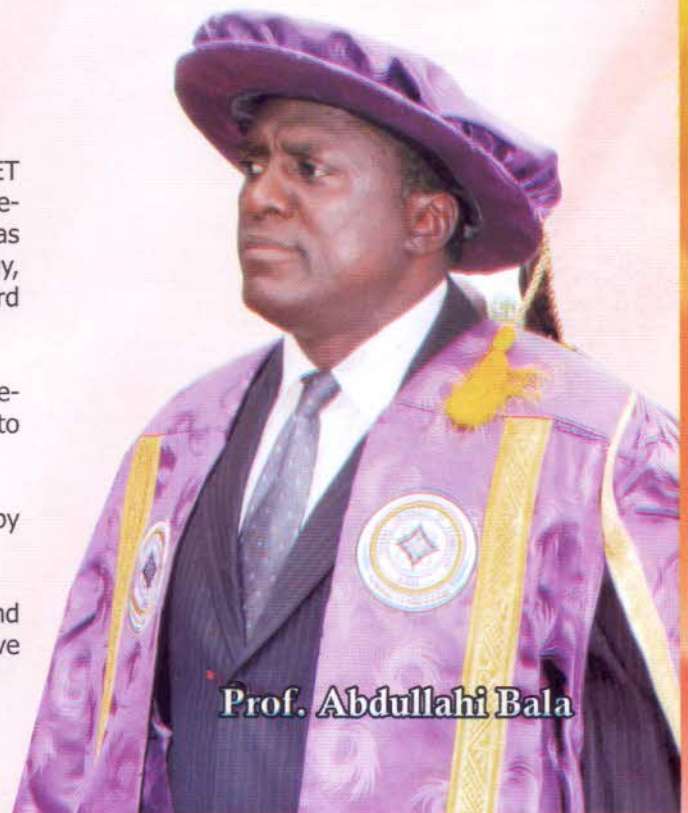
The Dean, on behalf of staff and the entire students of SEET heartily congratulate and felicitate with our in-coming Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Abdullahi Bala** on the official taking over as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Minna. We testify to your enviable track record of courage, hard work, honesty and commitment to excellence.

We pray to the Almighty God that during your tenure as the Vice-Chancellor, this University will continue to grow from strength to strength in manpower development and service delivery.

We hope and pray that you will break all the lofty records set by the ongoing Vice-Chancellor.

We wish you God's guidance, protection, long life, patience and wisdom to pilot the affairs of this great University for the next five (5) years.

Congratulations!



**Prof. Abdullahi Bala**

Signed:  
**Engr. Prof. O.K. Abubakre**  
Dean, SEET



## Management Receives FUTMinna NUGA Contingent ...VC Applauds Team FUTMinna

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, FNSBMB, FAS, has applauded the performance of the University's contingent to the last Nigeria Universities Games Association (NUGA) competition held at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State.

The Vice-Chancellor stated this when he received the University's athletes to the games in company of other Principal Officers of the University at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Prof. Akanji commended the athletes for making the University proud at the games, adding that their sacrifices and performances at the games cannot be quantified.

The VC disclosed that the performance of the University's athletes at the games gladdens the heart of the University Management judging from the fact that the University is a specialised institution without a dedicated Department of Physical and Health Education like other conventional universities that admit some students strictly for sports reasons.

"We are grateful to you for bringing honour to the University. You are the face of the University that we want to see and not those that are involved in social vices," the VC enthused.

The don promised the athletes that a special cocktail party would be hosted in their honour after the fasting period at the VC's Lodge to show the University Management's appreciation to them while adding that material present would also be announced at the event after due consultation with the Management team.

He advised the students to take their studies serious which is the primary aim of being in the University and assured them of Management support in all competitions. The VC also applauded the coaches, officials and coordinators for their contributions to the success recorded by the University athletes at the games.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman, University Sports Committee, Prof. Abdulmojeed Ijaiya briefed the University Management on the team's performance at the games and thanked Prof. Akanji for being a sport friendly Vice-Chancellor.

"We are very grateful to you for well documented support towards the growth of sports in the University with the upgrading of our sports facilities to world standards at both campuses," the former Niger Tornadoes goal poacher stated.

The former Nigerian International further expressed gratitude to the athletes for putting the University name on sports map in the country through their performances at the games.

The Vice-Chancellor later presented medals to all the athletes that won laurels at the games. The Vice-Chancellor was also decorated with the NUGA commemorative medal by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof. Yahaya Iyaka who was supported by the Chairman, University Sports Committee, Prof. Ijaiya.

It will be recalled that Team FUTMinna won one silver and four bronze medals at the 25th edition of NUGA games to finish 19th on the medal table out of the 73 universities that participated at the biennial sporting fiesta.



*The VC, Prof. Akanji (m), other POs, coaches, officials, coordinators and Team FUTMinna athletes to the 25th NUGA games in a group photograph after the medal presentation ceremony at the Senate Chamber.*



# *Congratulations* to our **Illustrious Son**

**T**he entire people of Dawaki Community, Suleja wishes to heartily felicitate with our illustrious son, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on the occasion of his inauguration as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Again, you have made us proud and your emergence as the Vice-Chancellor of this great citadel of learning is another testament to your antecedents as a record breaker. Right from your primary school days, we have known that you will always make us proud.

It is our fervent believe that your tenure will usher in more honours for the University and further enhance peaceful coexistence between the host communities and the University.

We pray that the Almighty Allah will give you the zeal, wisdom and courage to take crucial decisions that would further enhance the enviable profile of FUT, Minna as the best University in Nigeria and Africa at large.


Thank you for bringing our Community name to the limelight again.

Congratulations!

**Signed:**

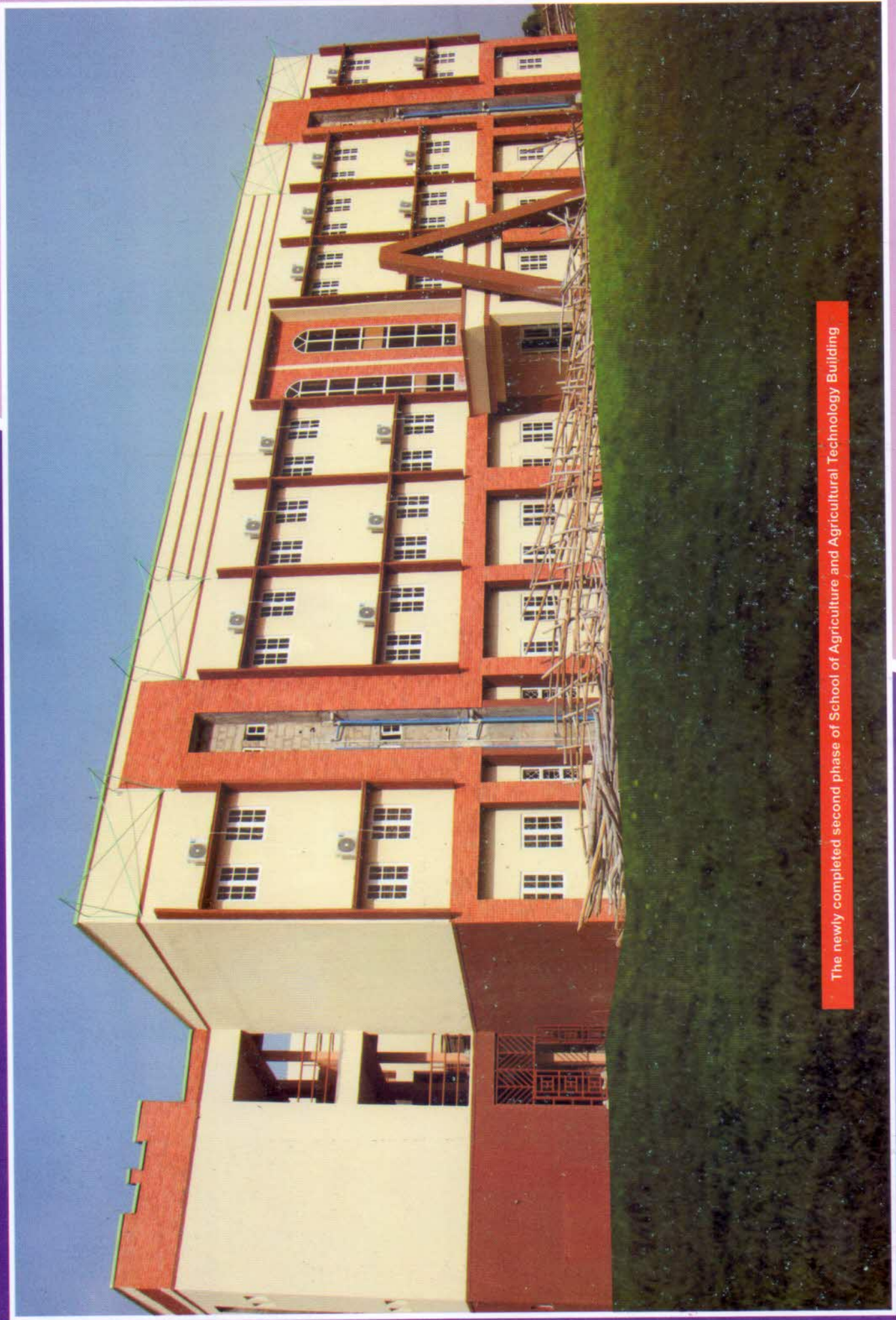
**Alh. M. B. Yunusa**

District Head, Bagama District, Suleja LGA



**PROF. ABDULLAHI BALA**





The newly completed second phase of School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology Building