

# Campus News

Federal University of Technology, Minna

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## FUTMINNA INAUGURATES NEW VC, PROF BALA

- As Prof Akanji Bows Out
- Prof Bala Vows To Improve IGR

**P**rof. Abdullahi Bala has been inaugurated as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The inauguration took place today at the Suleimanu Kumo Convocation Square, Gidan Kwano Campus.

In his remarks during the ceremony, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University Governing Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle, charged the new Vice-Chancellor to conduct the affairs of the institution within the extant laws and regulations.



Prof. Bala (2nd left) being robed as new VC by the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle (right) while assisted by the outgoing VC, Prof. Akanji (2nd right) and the foundation VC, Prof. Ndagi (left)

Prof. Odekunle stated that the event is the first of its kind in the history of the University that a real transition is taking place where an outgoing Vice-Chancellor is handing over to an in-coming Vice-Chancellor in person at the appropriate time with celebration, adding that today's seamless inauguration ceremony was an opposite of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor's inauguration ceremony which was delayed and postponed severally because of pending resolution of litigations in court against his appointment.

"You should all understand and appreciate why we, as a University and as a community, we are happy today to conduct this inauguration publicly, witnessed by both town and gown, by all stakeholders within and outside the University, all in an atmosphere of congeniality," the Pro-Chancellor stated.

The Chairman said the Council under his leadership had vowed to conduct and execute the selection process in an open, transparent, fair and credible manner without recourse to extraneous considerations such as ethnicity, religion, zoning, politics or similar primordial sentiments.

The don also thanked the Federal and State governments, traditional rulers and various community leaders for giving the governing council the chance to have a freehand in executing the selection exercise, guided only by the relevant laws and regulations and the interest of the University.

He expressed the University's appreciation to the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji for his observably-meritorious service to the development of the University while describing Prof. Akanji as a scholar, an astute administrator, an open-door Vice-Chancellor, listening and accessible leader, and a non-looter of University funds.

Speaking earlier, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji expressed gratitude to the University Governing Council for giving him the opportunity to serve the institution as its Vice-Chancellor in last five years, adding that all the achievements recorded were possible based on the support given to him by everybody.

The VC congratulated Prof. Abdullahi Bala on his well-deserved appointment as the new helmsman of the University and urged everybody to give him all the necessary support needed to succeed in office. He further expressed appreciation to the host community for their support.

The new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (FSSSN) thanked the University Governing Council under the leadership of Prof. Odekunle for organising and conducting a transparent, free and fair transition process that led to his emergence as the 7<sup>th</sup> Vice-Chancellor of the University, and also expressed appreciation to the University Senate members, staff and students for their support and understanding in the peaceful conduct of the exercise.

"The Federal University of Technology, Minna, has witnessed tremendous growth and development, especially in the last one and a half decades. Today, we have grown to a healthy staff and student population of about 24,000, we have a very beautiful Campus to be proud of, virtually all our academic programmes have full accreditation and the University is ranked the best among specialised Universities, 5<sup>th</sup> in Nigeria and 45<sup>th</sup> out of 4,245 universities in Africa. We have every reason to celebrate and be proud of these achievements," he stated.

He promised to continue to work hard in navigating the University along the trajectory of progressiveness and development already charted by his predecessors, saying that his administration would be guided by three Gs, namely:

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# SENATE PAYS TRIBUTE TO PROF AKANJI

The outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, has been described as a good listener, veritable team player and a visionary leader who has positively turned the fortunes of the institution around greatly.



*Cross section of Senate during the valedictory session*

These were the submission of members of Senate, the highest academic decision making body of the University at its 428th (Valedictory) Senate Meeting held in honour of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking on behalf of the University Management, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Oluwole Morenikeji who presided over the meeting said the Management under the leadership of Prof. Akanji remained focused as he listens democratically at meetings, especially in Senate, gathers information before taking decisions.

He described him as a very homely and humble team leader, who is and always ready to apologise for his mistakes. He said Prof. Akanji ensures that staff requests get to appropriate authorities, and attends staff ceremonies, even to the level of naming ceremonies irrespective of their status.

In his remarks, the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSSN who said he was part of Prof. Akanji administration for three years promised to protect all his legacies and ensure continuity on taken decision collectively.

Prof. Bala described the outgoing VC as a man full of energy and passion for work, very friendly and prudent who has demonstrated to a great level, trust and confidence in his followers which has endeared him to his followers.

The Vice-Chancellor designate further said that people would not be doing the outgoing Vice-Chancellor justice if all they have to say is to praise sing him. He maintained that as humans, we all have our weaknesses hence, part of his compliments for Prof. Akanji are on his personal weakness; as he could be forgetful and compassionate to a fault.

Commenting on the personality of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Postgraduate School, Prof. Matthew Kolo said as Chairman of the Committee of Deans, Prof. Akanji was interesting and inspiring. He dwelt on Prof. Akanji's administrative style, saying that academic excellence was introduced as VC always reads in between the lines of the minutes and he never interferes in the work of the Committee. Hence, the Committee always makes decisions that are thorough, timely and reasonable.

Prof. Oladiran Abubakre who said he is emotionally and spiritually attached to the outgoing VC, opined that Prof. Akanji can be seen as a man who lived up to his pledge made five years ago. He dutifully discharged his duties with the fear of God and consciousness of the day of reckoning.

He enumerated some of his achievements to include academic culture, transparency, financial best practice, thrusting the University into international recognition, promotion of staff as and when due and qualified, issuance of certificates at graduation and processing of academic transcript within two weeks.

Prof. Abubakre who spoke on behalf of other deans said Prof. Akanji has successfully lifted the University to higher level than he met the institution. "We salute you for being firm and still being human for being humble to a fault and for being religious without pretence," he stated.

Speaking on behalf of the Professors, Prof. Stella N. Zubairu spoke of him as an administrator with human face, open door policy, listening ears, punctuality, sympathetic to the unique needs of the female staff, keep fit master who also introduced free medical check-up for staff on their birthdays.

In the same vein, the representative of the Directors, Prof. Appolonia A. Okhimamhe said Prof. Akanji would be remembered for due process, transparency, always giving support to his subordinates, listening ears, attending generally to cases without fear or favouritism and above all, a man who usually speak from his heart and cares more about the well being of his staff than himself.

She equally praised the supportive nature of his wife, Mrs. Akanji and attributed his success to it.

Dr. J. C. Anuonye who spoke on behalf of Head of Departments, described the VC as a man who loved to set the pace and get things done rightly. "VC is committed to giving what is due to every department," he said. He prayed that God should lift him higher and give him more opportunity to serve the nation the more.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor, attributed his success at the institution to God and the level of cooperation he received from his Management team, staff, students, family members and close associates. He called on the University community to extend hands of fellowship and support to his successor.

It was a moment of nostalgia and encomiums at the 50th Special Meeting of Congregation where members gave the outgoing Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, encomiums for his remarkable tenure.

The meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Oluwole Olakanmi Morenikeji held on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the



Cross section of Congregation during the meeting

University Auditorium, Main Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor designate FUT, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, who spoke highly of Prof. Akanji said that for the three years he worked with him as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), he was a good leader and listener.

Prof. Bala while extolling the good qualities of Prof. Akanji described him as simple, hardworking and approachable. He commended the outgoing VC for imbibing the open door policy and collective decision making which he said earned him endearment from people and contributed to his success story.

The VC-designate maintained that he has been part of Prof. Akanji's success story and will continue to build on his legacies.

"The trajectory of progressiveness is what I will build on," he echoed.

Speaking on behalf of the academic community, the Head, Department of Physics, FUT, Minna, Prof. Uno Uno praised the outgoing VC for bringing the University into limelight in science and technology by the positive contributions he made which includes, full accreditation of schools and departments, expansion of infrastructure, hosting of international and local conferences, development of numerous collaborations with different international and national organizations, universities and countries, expansion of academic calendar with activities.

Prof. Uno also commended Prof. Akanji for maintaining time/protocol during his tenure and read a poem in his honour.

Representing the Registry Department, the Deputy

Registrar, Dr. Garba Abdullahi appreciated Prof. Akanji for his support to the Registry Department, adding that during his tenure, the Registry witnessed expansion of staff and many cadre conversions, others he noted include: timely processing of certificates, transcripts and prompt collection of certificates after convocation.

The Deputy Registrar commended Prof. Akanji for moving the University forward positively noting that all the steps he took while in office were in realisation of the goals he had set for himself.

On her part, a staff of the Bursary Department, Mrs. Hadiza Garba-Goje thanked Prof. Akanji who she described as a Biochemist turned accountant for his support to Bursary noting that he has exhibited humility and hard work and is an asset, has created a vacuum that will linger for a long time as words cannot express or quantify all his virtues.

Mr. Kehinde Lawal of ITS Unit revealed that a personal website was created for the outgoing VC, using professional template which highlights all the information and achievement about him with the web address as [www.musbauakanji.com.ng](http://www.musbauakanji.com.ng).

In his response, Prof. Akanji thanked the Congregation for the honour and tremendous support for the past five years. He noted that he was able to progress and handle duties assigned to him such as Senate matters, Matriculations, Convocations, Public / Inaugural Lectures because of the full support he got from the University, adding that it was a pleasure working with the University staff.

The outgoing VC disclosed that this is the first time in 15 years that a member of congregation is becoming a Vice-Chancellor and appealed for the support and cooperation of all to the Vice-Chancellor designate for a successful tenure.

"I am leaving with sweet memories of FUT, Minna as the plusses outweigh the minuses," Prof. Akanji ended.

## UPGRADING

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the Upgrading of **Ukubuiwe A. Christian**, Department of Biological Science from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer II with effect from May 31, 2017.

# PROF AIBINU CALLS FOR CHANGE IN EDUCATIONAL AGENDA

# FUTMINNA INAUGURATES NEW VC, PROF BALA

*Contd. from page 1*

**P**rof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu of the Department of Mechatronics Engineering has called for the adoption of Spiritual Intelligence Technology Engineering Artificial Intelligence Mathematics and Science (STEAMS) as educational agenda for Nigeria.



*Prof. Aibinu while delivering his lecture yesterday*

He made this call yesterday while delivering the 60th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, titled: ***Spiritual Intelligence: Beyond Mechatronics Engineering and Artificial Intelligence*** at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Gidan Kwano Campus.

Aibinu who is the first Professor of Mechatronics Engineering in the University posited that the shift from Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to STEAM would help tame the issues of religious intolerance and technology decadence in the country and lead to the desired technological advancement.

He explained that spiritual intelligence involves inner knowing, deep intuition, oneness with nature and problem solving and identified capacity to transcend the physical and material; ability to invest everyday activities, vents and relationships with a sense of the sacred and the ability to utilize spiritual resources to solve problems, amongst others as part of the characteristics of the spiritually intelligent.

Spiritual intelligence (SI) he further explained is the application of the religious domain of knowledge to our day-to-day problem solving and well-being, adding that the most important steps in developing it is the ability to find a sense of purpose and creating a vision.

On the relationship between spiritual intelligence and artificial intelligence, he explained that the latter which involves transferring human intelligence to machines is not achievable because people are not in a good state of mind.

He disclosed that part of his future research focus will be on measuring spiritual intelligence in humans as there is presently no expert system to measure such.

In his remarks, the out-going Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji FNSBMB, FAS, congratulated Prof. Aibinu for delivering the lecture, which was the last to be witnessed under his tenure.

guided by statutes of the University and laws of the land, good governance and global best practices.

"We shall take decisions that are in the best interest of the University. We shall work assiduously and dispassionately towards assembling the best team to realise our set objectives," The new Vice-Chancellor enthused.

On funding, Prof. Bala vowed to work towards improving the internally generated revenue of the University to augment whatever comes from federal government while stating that he would block all financial leakages.

"In spite of our 35 years existence as a University, we are only able to accommodate just about 4000 students in the University's hostels. This is a major problem to us which we feel needs to be quickly addressed given the security and social challenges associated with the vast majority of our students living off campus. "We are desirous of accommodating at least 75 percent of our students on Campus in order for them to be thoroughly exposed to University culture for them to, not only go through the University, but for the University to go through them so as to train them as responsible citizens and leaders of tomorrow," he maintained.

The Scholar disclosed that no meaningful development can be achieved without peace, saying that his administration would ensure and foster peaceful co-existence among members of the University community and between the University and the host community.

Speaking earlier while introducing the event, the Registrar of the University, Mrs. Victoria Nnawo Kolo said the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the University followed due process in line with the University laws pertaining to the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor.

"The fairness of the selection process leading to the appointment of the new Vice-Chancellor was massively applauded by stakeholders, including all contestants. The appointment of Vice-Chancellors in Nigerian Universities has been marred with several problems and in some universities, the process has often been regarded as a "Do or Die Contest," she noted.

The Registrar disclosed that the University decided to organise the elaborate and open inauguration ceremony to show that the University is peaceful and transparent in all of its dealings. She congratulated the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji for working assiduously towards the development of the University in all facets.

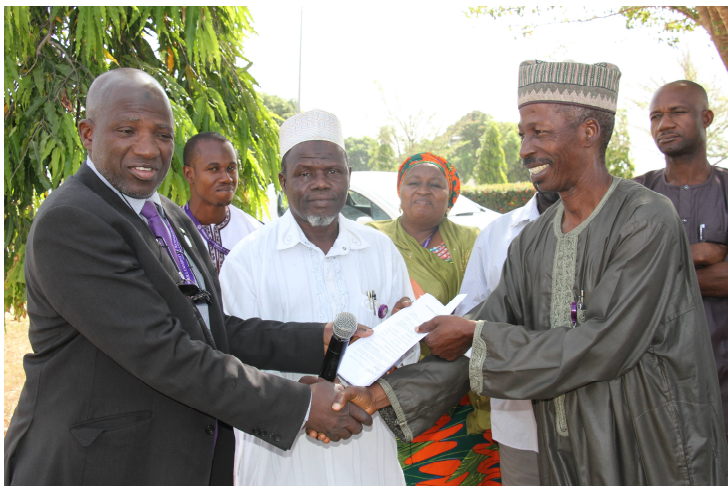
Prof. Abdullahi Bala will assumed office on December 3, 2017 for a single term of five years.

# VC HANDS OVER OF LAND TO PG STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, has officially handed over proposed certificate of land allocation to the Association of Nigerian Postgraduate Students (ANPGS).

The ceremony took place on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Speaking during a sod turning ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Akanji said he has been to many



Prof. Akanji (left) handing over document to Dean, PG School, Prof. Kolo

universities in Nigeria and this is his first time of seeing students contribute on their own to build a secretariat.

Prof. Akanji commended the effort of the PG students for the wonderful gesture. He also thanked the Dean, PG School, Prof. Matthew Kolo for the impact on the School

since his appointment.

He promised to donate to the association personally, and said that when the University sees that they are serious with the project, they would also assist them.

Earlier, the Dean, PG School, Prof. Kolo, said it is good for Postgraduate Students to have their own secretariat building, offices, place of relaxation and recreation, so that they would be able to study at the same time to make their stay in the University very fruitful.

Giving a brief overview of the building, Arch. Adedayo Olatunde, said the building comprises six offices, a Conference Hall, which would contain 70 to 100 people and a relaxation area.

Arch. Adedayo further reiterated that a guest chalet would be provided in the design for commercial purpose so that the money generated can be used to maintain the building.

In his vote of thanks, the President, PG Students Association, Comrade Kingsley Onya said due to the enormous task and challenges confronting the students, especially where to converge and discuss important matters relating to Postgraduate issues, it has become imperative to build a secretariat that would provide and also promote unity and bond among Postgraduate students.

## NOVELTY MATCH: TEAM AKANJI, TEAM BALA MATCH ENDED IN STALEMATE

It was a mix of soccer skills and fun as the Novelty match organized by the University Sport Committee in honour of the out-going Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, went under way on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.



Profs. Bala and Akanji (3rd & 4th from right) in a group photograph with other Principal Officers after the match

In the match played at the football pitch of the University Sports Arena, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano, the teams named after the out-going VC and his successor as *Team Akanji* and *Team Bala* respectively with a mixture of teaching and non-teaching staff each, appeared to be initialising sizing up each other.

However, Maroof Aliyu of the Registrar's Office rattled the *Team Akanji* defence for the most part of the first half, showing good pace and dribbling his way around.

His efforts paid off in the second half when goal keeper Abiodun Faborode from the Bursary could not stop his shot.

The most dramatic miss came from Dr. Ayodeji Olugboji who got a long pass from Dean, Students Affairs Division, Prof. Abdulmojeed Ijaiya and failed to find the back of the net with only the goalkeeper to beat.

But super-sub Ijaiya who had replaced the only female on the pitch, Mrs. Eucharia Ezenwadiugwu levelled the score three minutes before stoppage time when he curled a free-kick into the top-left to beat goalkeeper Sabo Lawal of *Team Bala*.

# CDRM&DS ORGANISES COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Centre for Disaster and Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRM&DS), Federal University of Technology, Minna, in conjunction with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Niger State National Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), and Niger State Ministry of Education has organised the 4th Edition of the disaster risk reduction quiz and debate competition and award ceremony for secondary schools in Minna, Niger State.



POs, University's staff, Representative of NEMA, NSEMA and participating schools in a group photograph after the programme

The event took place on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at the Lecture Theatre, School of Environmental Technology, FUT, Minna, Main Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Prof. Oluwole Morenikeji while congratulating all the participants at the competition noted that there is a need to continue to organize educational programmes to foster awareness and better understanding of our immediate environment.

## PROF AKANJI COMMENDS CODEL STAFF FOR DEVELOPING MOBILE APP

The outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji *FNSBMB, FAS*, has commended Mr. Emmanuel Abba, a staff of the University's Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) for developing a mobile app for the University Campus News.

According to a letter signed by the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Akanji, expressed appreciation to Mr. Abba for his priceless contribution to the development of the University through the Mobile App designed for the University Campus News at no cost.

"This Mobile App will lurch us further as a digital complaint institution that we are known for". Prof. Akanji revealed.

The Vice-Chancellor commended him for his selfless service while assuring him that the University would continue to count on him in its common bid and commitment towards building a world class University.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the programme is an international activity and part of the global physical and child centre disaster risk reduction programme being promoted by United Nations (UN).

Prof. Akanji used the medium to encourage students to come to FUT, Minna after their secondary education because it is best among the specialised universities in Nigeria, 5th out of 154 universities in Nigeria and 45th out of over 3000 universities in Africa.

He charged them to continue to share the knowledge they have acquired which will save lives and properties.

The Director, CDRM&DS, Prof. Jehoshaphat Dukiya stated that the main idea of the programme is to create awareness on disaster risk reduction.

Prof. Dukiya, thanked the University Management, especially the outgoing VC, for the consistent support as well as NEMA and NSEMA for their collaboration. He also appreciated the principals and teachers of the participating schools for honouring their invitation.

The Representative of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Niger State, Tswako Muhammad, Representative of the Director General, NSEMA, Ibrahim Hussanni Audu and Isa Hussain, Head of Search and Rescue Unit, NEMA, Minna Operation Office who represented the Zonal Coordinator all commended the effort of the organisers of the programme in redefining strategies towards creation of awareness and sensitisation of the public to reduce disaster and risk in Niger State and the country as a whole and congratulated the students that participated in the competition.

The schools that participated include MYPA College, Minna, Federal Government College, Minna, Model Secondary School, FUT, Minna, Father O'Connell Secondary School, Minna and MAWO International School, Minna.

## SALE OF SMCS LOAN FORMS

The Loans Committee of the Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd will commence the sale of loan forms to qualified members staff for five Hundred Naira (N500.00) only.

Collection and submission of forms commence on Monday 4th to Monday 11th December, 2017 by 4.00pm.

For collection and submission of forms, contact the following:

1. Mallam Hamidu Abdullahi, Microbiology Laboratory, Bosso Campus. 08036876627.
2. Muhammed M. Kodo, Establishment Unit, Senate Building, Gidan Kwano. 08050780478.
3. Mrs. Fatima Musa Kolo, Dean's Office, SAAT, Gidan Kwano. 08039721688.

The exercise is from 10.00am - 4.00pm each day.