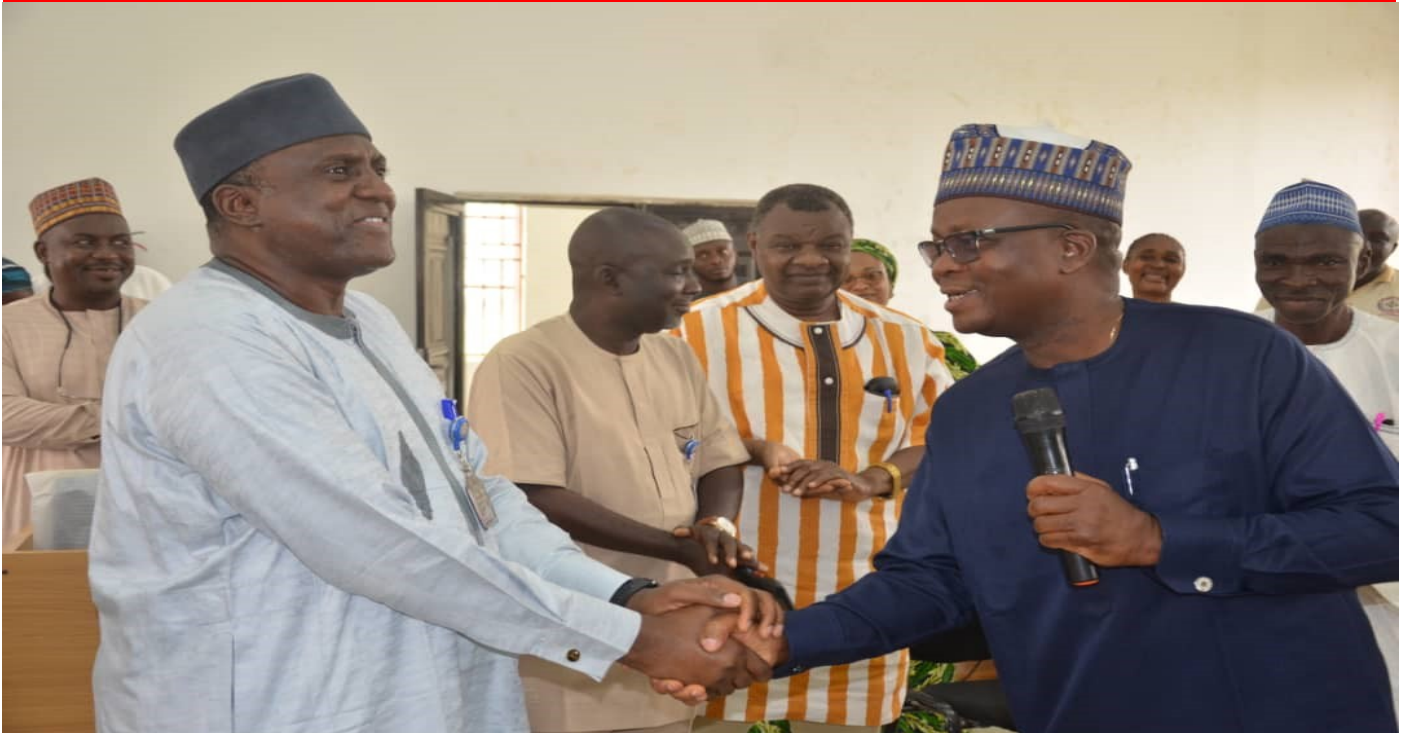


FUTMINNA'LL CONTINUE TO LEAD IN DIGITAL FACILITIES, VC ASSERTS AS NCC HANDS OVER MINI ICT SQUARE

By Mustapha Alhassan



VC Prof. Abdullahi Bala FSSN (L) in a handshake with NCC Head of Projects, Philip Eretan shortly after the handover of Mini ICT Square.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fssn has asserted that the institution will continue to be a leader in the use of digital facilities.

Prof. Bala made this assertion on Thursday, October 6, 2022 during the handover of the Mini ICT Square built by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) at the Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

He recalled that a 2019 survey of the close to 50 Federal Universities in Nigeria by the National Universities Commission (NUC) ranked FUT, Minna first in terms of digital penetration. The survey, he added, revealed that virtually all processes in the University are digitalised. He also went down

memory lane when the University was in the 1990s designated centre of excellence for computing.

Prof. Bala said that because FUT, Minna had always exposed its students to computer and computing it was not surprising that they excelled anywhere they found themselves.

"The fact that we are celebrating hand over of this edifice is a pointer to the fact that there are one or two things that we might have done to elicit the interest of the NCC to be able to decide that we should be one of the universities that would benefit from this kind of intervention," the Vice-Chancellor remarked.

He thanked the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commission,

Prof. Umar Dambatta for deeming it fit to approve the intervention, just as he acknowledged the various interventions by the NCC and sister agencies in the University, which have benefitted both the institution and the larger society.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that post-covid the University is expected to enhance its digital facilities to be able to have online classes.

On funding of education, Prof. Bala averred: "I always tell people that we cry of insufficient government funding education only because we are looking at it from the angle of appropriation, but beyond appropriation there

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are other sources of funding coming from government and this is one of them. You cannot actually say that this is not a contribution from government. We have other agencies that have helped us, either in terms of provision of classrooms, offices and building of roads. The totality of it is a lot of money coming into the universities but hardly do we appreciate and acknowledge that these are additional investments from government."

He assured that the University would take ownership of the edifice and invest additional resources on it.

Earlier in his remarks, NCC's Head of Projects, Philip Eretan, who handed over the project to the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Umar Dambatta, said key to having a digital economy is a digitally literate citizenry who possess the right skills, the reason the Commission and the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy is focusing on

educational institutions where the manpower will be trained.

He disclosed that as part of efforts to carry the younger ones along in boosting digital literacy, similar facilities are being provided in secondary schools in different parts of the country.

Eretan implored the University to ensure proper maintenance of the facility.

Giving a brief of the project, earlier, Engr. Kenneth Uzoekwe of the NCC said FUT, Minna was one of the six universities chosen by the Commission to house a Mini ICT Square each. Others are the University of Ibadan; Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto; Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi; University of Port Harcourt and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Akwa

He said the edifice is equipped with high-end ICT facilities to deepen ICT penetration in the University and society, adding that the computers provided are adaptable to the University's future ICT needs. The Mini ICT

Square comprises 100 sets of 3-in-1 networked computers, three offices, a server room, a 100-KVA generator, a 20-KVA inverter system and batteries, 88 solar panels, one borehole with 15 thousand litres storage capacity and 14 rest rooms.

Present at occasion were the VC-Designate/Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Faruk Adamu Kuta; DVC (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Emeka Udensi, fnip; Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo; Bursar, Mrs. Hadiza Goje, fnia, fcti and University Librarian, Dr. Katamba Abubakar Saka.

Others were Director, Academic Planning Unit, Prof. Abdullahi Mohammed; Director, Public-Private Partnership Dr. Mohammed Saidu; Director, Information Technology Services, Prof. Adamu Mohammed; Director, Entrepreneurship Centre Dr. Caroline Alenoghena and Ag. Director Physical Planning Development Unit, Dr. Mohammed Bala as well as other members of staff.

NIGER ELDERS FORUM VISITS PROF KUTA



The Steering Committee Chairman, Prof. Job Nmadu (standing) speaking during the visit.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The Chairman, Steering Committee of the Niger State Elders Forum, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Job Nmadu has led a delegation of executive members of the Forum on

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a courtesy visit to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof. Faruk Adamu Kuta in his office over his appointment as the Vice-Chancellor designate of the University.

Speaking, Prof. Nmadu said the purpose of the visit was to felicitate with one of their own who was recently elevated to the exalted position of the Chief Executive of the University. He pledged their support for him and wished him a successful

tenure and greater achievements in office.

Others who commented at the occasion include Profs: Adamu Yusuf Kabiru, Ahmed Sauduki Abubakar, Abubakar Ndama Saidu and Dr. Mohammed Nakaka. They described the incoming Vice-Chancellor as a man of integrity, gentle, peaceful and hard working.

Responding, Prof. Faruk, while appreciating them for their time, advice and prayers offered

pointed out that the system over the years has helped and groomed him to become what he is today.

"I must say that I don't have the right vocabulary to express the joy in me over this visit. It shows clearly that there is no doubt about it that, I am at home and fully protected as I have the backing of the elders to actually pursue the noble objectives of this university," he reiterated.

PTA REFILLS POT HOLES AT BOSSO CAMPUS



Men at work.

The Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of the University Staff School, Federal University of Technology, Minna has refilled the pot holes on the road between Geography laboratory and the bridge leading to the football field at Bosso Campus of the University.

The gesture is to alleviate the suffering of parents who ply the road for school runs (to and from, the University Staff School and Model Secondary School).

Speaking at the project site, the PTA Chairman, Prof. Adamu Mohammed, on behalf of the Association

called on other spirited groups/individuals to emulate the good gesture of the Association to rehabilitate other portions of the road to ease movement within Bosso Campus.

He further stated that the project cost the Association the sum of One Hundred Thousand Naira only.

Also present at the work site were the Association Treasurer, Mr. Isaiah Sule and Auditor, Mall. Saba Mohammed.