

PANTAMI INUAGURATES FUTMINNA MINI-ICT SQUARE

By Abdullahi Umar Danbakaba



Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami)

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), has inaugurated the Mini-ICT Square in the Federal University of Technology Minna.

The inauguration, which was performed virtually on Thursday, May 25, 2023 during an unveiling ceremony of 4,366 digital projects implemented by parastatals under the supervision of the Minister was organized by the Ministry and transmitted online from the headquarters of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Abuja to stakeholders across the country.

The facility was built and equipped by the NCC as an intervention project for educational institutions aimed at promoting computer literacy among Nigerians in line with the Ministry's transformation agenda towards creating a digital Nigeria.

Addressing audience at the occasion, the Minister noted that, of the 4,366 projects

unveiled, 95 percent were successfully implemented in less than four years while the remainder have already attained 90 percent completion.

Prof. Pantami further explained that the figures given were inexhaustible, as there were several other projects and programmes embarked upon by the Ministry which were not captured in the list.

Speaking on behalf of Federal University of Technology, Minna, the Director, Information Technology Services (ITS), Dr. Bala Salihu expressed his appreciation for the intervention, adding that the University had already benefited from several projects and programmes executed by the Ministry through the NCC and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).

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Mr. Musa Bello of Project Department, NCC, Abuja unveiling FUTMinna Mini-ICT Square as Director, ITS FUTMinna, Dr. Bala Salihu appreciates NCC *Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa*

Some of the projects inaugurated virtually by the Minister include, ICT Hub, Federal University, Gashuwa, Yobe State; Community ICT Centre, Ogbomosho, Oyo State; Digital Awareness Programme, Lagos State;

Digital Nigerian Centre, Gen. Hassan Usman Katsina Unity College, Bauchi State and Digital Nigerian Centre, Enugu State amongst others.

EC TRAINS LECTURERS ON GST COURSES

By: Mohammed Abubakar & Zainab Lawal



8th from left: VC's rep. the DVC (Admin), Prof. Uno; the E.C. Director, Engr. Dr. Alenoghena (7th left); the centre staff and the trainees in a group snap shot. *Photo Credit: Zainab Lawal*

Resource persons drawn from all the Schools of the Federal University of Technology, Minna have received orientation and training on course delivery of GST 208 (Entrepreneurship I) and GST 308 (Entrepreneurship II) for 200 and 300 levels respectively.

The University's Entrepreneurship Centre (EC) conducted the training from Thursday, 25th to Friday, 26th May 2023 at its premises, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

In his brief remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Faruk Adamu Kuta, encouraged the participants not to only teach theory but be more interactive in their approach so that the students would properly understand.

Prof. Kuta who was represented at the event by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Uno Essang Uno, pointed out students may end up being successful in life through skills acquired other than their courses of study.

The Vice-Chancellor further mentioned that science and technology cannot be visible without entrepreneurship as the inventions or products from science and technology need to be showcased through marketing.

He urged the Centre Director to give the trainees certificates of participation so that it would give them an edge further.

Earlier in her brief address, the Director of the centre, Engr. Dr. Caroline Alenoghena, stated that the centre leveraged on existing CEFE trainers in the Schools to organise a training of trainers (ToT) and refreshers for new trainers as they join the team.

According to her, the centre proposes to deliver the course in a blended mode, using the e-learning platform SMESabi, supported through engaging sessions in the centre and

available school venues.

She said SMESabi is enriched with modules/courses in consonance with the synopsis of the GSTs 208 and 308 which will enable easy teaching to the students.

"Students would be required to register the course online and take the courses self-paced and tutorial session will be facilitated to ensure that no student is left behind," the Director explained.

The course specifically GST 308, she said, requires that students acquire any skill of their choice; preferably in their area of study during the semester.

Engr. Dr. Alenoghena added that the EC will be approving several HUBs where these students can acquire these skills, while hoping the centre has at least one HUB in each School where students can acquire such skills.

A participant, Dr. Aisha Adamu Gado, Department of Plant Biology, who spoke at the event said her earlier experiences with the courses were largely theoretical and that the training now received is more interactive and practical using the CEFE approach. She noted that the new method now makes the courses to be more interesting to both the lecturers and students, as such it was coming at the right time.

Another participant, Mr. Adesina Adewumi, Department of Horticulture submitted that if the students were impacted with such knowledge, we are building them to excel into an economy beyond our imagination. He also advocated for the students to be given a space to practice their entrepreneurship.

SABBATICAL

The Vice-Chancellor has approved Sabbatical for Prof. (Mrs.) H. O. Akanya, Department of Biochemistry, tenable at Dufil Prima Foods Ltd, Surulere, Lagos, for a period of one (1) year with effect from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024.

THERE IS A GENDER GAP IN STEM EMPLOYMENT- ENGR. ELUWA

By Aliyu Ibrahim Jidda



Engr. Victoria C. Eluwa addressing the Students

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

Women and girl students have been called upon to seize the increasing opportunities existing in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) jobs as only a few of them find employment in STEM related fields at present and the gender gap in STEM employments has placed them at a disadvantaged position.

Engr. Victoria Eluwa, a technologist in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Federal University of Technology, Minna made the call when delivering a mentorship and counseling lecture on the topic " Breaking Barriers for Girls and Women in STEM Education" to students of Model Secondary School, Bosso Campus, on Friday, May 26, 2023 at the school premises.

Engr. Eluwa pointed out that the presentation will avail the students with practical strategies that will help create a lifelong pathway to opportunity for girls and women in STEM education, adding that the discussion analysed some of the key issues that are associated with girls and women in STEM to create a

better understanding of significant gaps affecting gender inclusion in STEM education.

She analysed that at present there are only 26% of women in the field of cyber security, 16% physicists, 25.2% in computer and mathematical occupations, 9% in remote sensing engineering and architecture 16.5%.

Engr. Eluwa therefore advised the girls to work towards breaking the barriers through extensive studies and pursuit of excellence.

The technologist further enjoined parents and teachers to give girls and women the skills and confidence to succeed in mathematics and sciences.

She recommended that effective guidance and counselling services and resources should be provided towards promoting gender inclusion in STEM education, adding that workshops and seminars should be organized to empower girls with STEM capabilities as well as partnership with stakeholders to provide 'after college scholarship' for girls to pursue higher education in STEM, amongst others.

UPGRADING

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the Upgrading of **Anyanwu Samuel Kelechi** Department of Chemistry from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer, with effect from October 11, 2021.

NOTICE FROM FUTMINNA COMMITTEE ON COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The following decisions were taken at the meeting held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 between the Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman and members of the University Committee on Commercial Activities within the campuses:

1. That no staff should personally be engaged in the operations of commercial motorcycle/tricycle within the campuses.
2. All commercial vehicle operators who are duly registered under Bosso Campus Bus Park will not be allowed to operate any shuttle services within Gidan Kwano Campus.
3. Henceforth any commercial vehicle operator who wish to operate within Gidan Kwano Campus should register with the Committee.
4. Note that any operator who flouts the orders would be sanctioned appropriately

AL-HALAL AGM

Al-Halal Cooperative Multipurpose Society, Federal University of Technology, Minna has slated its 18th Annual General Meeting for **Saturday, 3rd June, 2023**.

The AGM which is for the year ended 31st December, 2022 is to hold at CPES Hall, Bosso Campus by 10am.

Members are to note that accreditation starts by 8am. Accreditation by proxy will not be allowed.

WEDDING CEREMONY

Mrs. J. O. Alamojin of the Registry Department cordially invites the University community and the general public to the wedding ceremony of her Son, **David Temitope Rotimi** with **Favour Omolara Folukemi** which will by the grace of God take place as follows:

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2023

Time: 10:00am

Venue: First Baptist Church, Ayegunle Gbede, Ijumu LGA, Kogi State.

Reception follows immediately at Model Primary School Open Field.

COUNSELLING TIPS

Be tolerant and always exercise self control. Responding to the stupidity of a fool will only make you look foolish.

**Guidance and Counselling Unit,
Students' Affairs Division.**

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY (QAP) CORNER

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND GRADUATION OF STUDENTS

Some of the associated corrupt practices in examination administration and graduation of students in the Universities are:

- Sale of examination questions and other examination-related information.
- Gratification and inducement to manipulate award of marks and grades.
- Swapping of grades.
- Writing of examination by proxy.
- Direct cheating in examination.
- Delay in the release of results.
- Delay of students from graduating due to poor record keeping and deliberate victimization by staff.
- Manipulation of internal examination processes.

Preventive actions by the Universities

- Adequate intelligence should be deployed in the monitoring of examinations.
- Question papers should be printed on the day of the examination to reduce leakages.
- Careful selection of people of integrity to handle examination.
- Computerization/Automation of the entire record (Academic and Administrative) management system from department to all relevant organ.
- There should be a stipulated time line for lecturers to process results after examinations.
- Introduction of standard record keeping system and upholding of official discipline.
- Enforcement of the University's code of conduct for examination.
- Allotment of manageable number of courses to lecturers.
- Students should be encouraged to read the Students' Handbook to familiarize themselves with examination rules and procedures and sanctions for malpractices.
- Arrangement of seats in the examination halls should be such that the students are adequately spaced to curb malpractices and enhance effective supervision.
- Lecturers should alleviate students fear for examinations by avoiding discouraging comments.

TOOTH DECAY

Introduction; Tooth decay is also known as Dental caries. It causes holes or structural damage in the teeth. It usually starts as white spots on the teeth and if untreated progresses into cavities. These cavities maybe stained black or brown. Tooth decay is a preventable disease in both children and adults.

Causes Of Tooth Decay

When the bacteria in the dental plaque (slimy coat on the teeth) converts refined carbohydrate and sugar into acid, it results to tooth decay. This acid attacks on the tooth surface and causes minerals to be lost (demineralization) the body tries to recover through the remineralization effect of the saliva.

This attack and recovery occurs over a process of time while eating and drinking. So tooth decay develops over that period of time if the attack outweighs the recovery process. Early childhood caries or nursing caries could be seen in infants and toddlers less than 71 months usually in the maxillary teeth as a result of bottle feeding, pacifiers dipped in honey, breast feeding at will.

Factors That Contribute To Tooth Decay

1. **DIET**;
 - Sipping on acidic or sugary drinks over a period of time increases the exposure time to the tooth surface and frequent snacking especially with refined carbohydrates e.g juices, soda, diet drinks e.t.c.
 - Sticky and sweet foods that stay on the teeth for a long time one often associated with tooth decay e.g Bread, chips, biscuits, chocolate e.t.c.
2. **POOR ORAL HYGIENE HABITS**;
 - Lack of daily brushing and flossing routine.
 - Insufficient use of topical fluoride e.g. tooth pastes containing fluoride. Consumption of non-flouridated water early in life can reduce the teeth resistance to tooth decay
3. **SMOKING and USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**;

This habit increases the risk of oral cancer and also increases the risk of tooth decay because it has been shown that tobacco interferes with saliva production which helps to clean the tooth surface and dilute the acid produced in the mouth.
4. **GUM TISSUE RECESSION**;

This is usually prevalent in the elderly where the loss of the protective gum tissue exposes the root surface which is easier to dealcify than the enamel, increasing the risk of developing root causes around the neck of the teeth.
5. **DRY MOUTH (XEROSTOMIA)**;

Saliva helps to clean the teeth surface and also dilutes any acid present in the mouth therefore any medication or medical condition (e.g. cancer treatment) that lowers the level of saliva in the mouth increases the risk of developing tooth decay.

What to do to reduce the risk of tooth decay

- Reduce snacking on refined carbohydrates and sugary drinks instead eat well-balanced healthy meals.
- Clean teeth thoroughly twice a day and floss after meals.
- Drink lots of water through out the day and chew sugar free gum to increase saliva flow.
- Visit your dentist at least twice yearly.
- For nursing infants and toddlers, a good oral hygiene should be maintained after feeding.

MONEY MATTER

Weekly Financial Digest for 15th May - 21th May 2023

N/S	RECEIPTS	₦
	DETAIL	AMOUNT
1	ACCEPTANCE FEES	460,000.00
2	TRANSCRIPT	977,380.00
3	CERTIFICATE (UNDER GRADUATE)	171,000.00
4	CERTIFICATE (POST GRADUATE)	60,000.00
5	POST GRADUATE SCHOOL FEES	8,317,500.00
6	POSTGRADUATE FORMS	720,000.00
7	TURNITIN PG	124,000.00
8	TURNITIN UNDERGRADUATE	112,500.00
9	CLEARANCE FEES	3,000.00
10	UNDERGRADUATE FEES	146,214,400.00
11	POST UTME	1,000.00
12	VERIFICATION OF RESULT	60,000.00
13	CODEL REGISTRATION	44,600.00
14	SALE OF FORMS PRE-DEGREE	140,000.00
15	SEMESTERIAL RESULT	800.00
16	PREPAID METER	24,000.00
17	COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES(SHOP)	121,000.00
18	HUAWEI ACADEMY	10,000.00
19	TEACHING PRACTICE	6,000.00
20	MOTORCYCLE REG	11,000.00
21	SUNDRY OTHER INCOME	1,000.00
	TOTAL	₦157,579,180.00
	PAYMENTS	
22	(i) Staff	
	(a) Refund	6,587,350.00
	(b) Advance	1,940,300.00
	(ii) Contractors/Suppliers	
	(a) Abuja Electricity Dis. Company Plc - Electricity Bill	8,066,383.27
	(b) A. G Equipment Service - Maintenance	370,000.00
	(c) DHL Int'l Nig. Ltd. - Courier Service	26,493.88
	(d) Doko Hotel LTD - Hotel Bill	190,414.00
	(e) H.D.A Audit - Audit Fees	2,150,000.00
	(f) Okechukusu Nduka - Maintenance	91,000.00
	(g) Okechukwu Nduka - Maintenance	199,000.00
	(h) NISEPA - Waste Levy	300,000.00
	(i) LID's Easysphly Travels -Flight Ticket	4,694,934.00
	(j) Niger State Board of Internal Rev. - VAT	2,003,546.85
	(k) Niger State Board of Internal Rev . - TAX	1,561,157.90
	(l) Niger State Board of Internal Rev. - TAX	606,298.31
	(m) Federal Inland Rev. Service - Stamp Duties	287,955.00
	(o) Federal Inland Rev. Service - VAT	705,043.69
	TOTAL	₦29,779,876.90