

SPECIAL INTERVIEW:

► **Our Researchers Are Attracting Funds To The University - Prof. Bala**



# FUTMINNA

## Newsletter

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA

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• **28th Convocation Ceremony:  
President Buhari Urges  
Graduands to Shun Violence**





### Motto:

Technology for Empowerment

### Vision:

To become a world class and leading University recognized for its excellence in capacity building and service delivery.

### Mission:

As a specialized university, we are committed to the training of skilled and innovative work-force that would transform Nigeria's natural resources into goods and services driven by entrepreneurship and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to positively affect the economy and thus the quality of life of her people.

### Logo:

The University logo signifies Nigerian culture and the wheel represents "technology." Thus, the institution's logo reflects technology within the Nigerian culture.

### Colour:

The University's official colour is Purple.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE



Lydia Legbo

It's with utmost gaiety that we bring to you the latest edition of FUTMinna Newsletter. In our usual tradition of rewarding you for your loyalty, we got juicy stories in this package that cut across different strata of human endeavour. Our lead story is on the recently concluded 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' day and 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of our dear University. The cover story leads with President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR,

urging graduands to shun violence. And other events during the Convocation ceremony. Still on the Convocation ceremony, we have dedicated some pages in this edition for pictorial display of some of the exciting moments caught on the lens by our photographers

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, is always a journalist delight during interview. FUTMinna Newsletter had an exclusive interview with the don on some vital issues on the development of the institution. The excerpts of the interview is part of this rich edition.

As a leading University of science and technology, our faculty members are living up to the University status as a research oriented ivory towers by attracting funds to the institution through grants and their research breakthroughs; in this category, we have the mobile teaching lab invented by one of our staff and the equipment is now the toast of everybody in the country. We have stories of the equipment flag-off ceremonies in Kaduna and Niger States for you in this super-duper edition of FUTMinna Newsletter.

Some of our erudite professors also joined the noble league of professors who have delivered their inaugural lectures. We have all the details and exclusive pictures taken at the events for you.

At this point in time, words are indeed limited to the extent to which the rich contents of this magazine can be described. So, as you grab a copy of this magazine, you'll definitely find so much more as you flip through the pages of this magazine. Enjoy it!



# 72 To Bag First Class At FUTMinna 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation

All is now set for the 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' day and 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony where the Federal University of Technology, Minna will be graduating 4, 443 students for the 2018/2019 academic session. Seventy-two of the graduands will bag first class honours degrees.

The Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, disclosed this recently during a press briefing held at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus to kick off activities for the convocation.

Prof. Bala added that 941 students will bag second class upper division, 1, 905 second class lower, 707 third class and 46 pass degrees.

The VC further revealed that out of the 4, 443 graduating students, 3, 671 will receive first degrees, 506 will be awarded masters degrees while 58 will bag PhDs and 208 will be awarded postgraduate diplomas.

The graduands are from the Schools of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT), School of Electrical and Engineering Technology (SEET), School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology (SEMT), School of Environmental Technology (SET), School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT), School of Infrastructure and Process Engineering Technology (SIPET), School of Life Sciences (SLS), School of Physical Sciences (SPS), School of Science and Technology Education and four affiliate institutions: Federal

College of Education (Technical) Akoka, Lagos, Federal College of Education (Technical) Potiskum, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna and Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi.

The VC noted that as a departure from previous years, there will be no Science and Technology exhibition this year because the students and their supervisors whose projects usually form the bulwark of the exhibition are not on ground on account of the on-going ASUN strike. In its place, he said the University had organized a football competition for primary schools in Minna tagged: "Chancellor's Kids Football Championship", in honour of the University Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP), Eze Udo 1 of MgbokoNgwaAmaise Autonomous Community, Obingwa LGA of Abia State. A total of 14 primary schools are involved and the final will be held at the University's Sports Complex, Main Campus on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by 4: 30pm.

He disclosed that the convocation lecture titled: "Transformation of African Agriculture: The Journey So far" will be delivered by Dr. Nteranya Sanginga, the Director General of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan on



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala addressing pressmen

Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2019.

The University helmsman informed the pressmen that the grand finale of the activities will be on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 at the Suleimanu Kumo Convocation Square, Main Campus by 10: 00am, where first and higher degrees, postgraduate diplomas as well as award of prizes would be conferred on graduands.

He commended the journalists for their consistent and balanced coverage of the University events and assured them of the University's support as they carry out their functions as members of the fourth estate of the realm.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the Chairman, University Ceremonies Committee who is also the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of the institution, Prof. Emmanuel Udensi thanked the journalists for honouring the University's invitation and sought for their continuous support throughout the convocation ceremony.

Prof. Udensi expressed appreciation to the members of the University Ceremonies Committee and other University staff for their support.



# How IITA Transformed African Agriculture - DG

As Africa continues to be plagued by food insecurity, poverty, climate change and exploding population, the International Institute Tropical of Agriculture (IITA), has developed solutions to these agricultural and development challenges.

Director General, IITA, Ibadan, Oyo State, Dr. Nteranya Sanginga represented by Dr. Ken Dashiell, Deputy Director General, (Partnership for Delivery), IITA, disclosed this when he delivered the 28th Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

In his lecture titled: Transformation of African Agriculture: The Journey So Far, the renowned Agriculturalist said as the largest international agriculture research centre in tropical Africa, IITA research for development work in the last 50 years has transformed African agriculture.

He disclosed that IITA has developed technologies that include improved and high yielding varieties of major African staples such as banana plantain, cassava, cowpea, maize, soya beans, and yam; good agronomic and farming practice; seed development technologies; innovative applications for better crop, plant health and soil resources management.

According to him, it has contributed to improve overall agricultural productivity in the region, created wealth for farmers and value chain actors, while making significant contributions to national economic development through agriculture.

Dr. Sanginga disclosed that the impacts of IITA's work on small-holder farmers, including women and youth are evident in the adoption of improved varieties, increased yields and better resistance to pests and diseases. The institute has also developed Aflasafe a natural biocontrol

product which reduces aflatoxin contamination in food and grain.

According to him, growing crops bred by IITA and partners has contributed to 80% of the development impact in Sub-Saharan Africa and edible yield increase worth \$17 billion improved cassava cultivars increased yields by 40%, contributing to the food security of 14 million rural dwellers.

Designed and focused the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) programme strategies taken by IITA, according to Dr. Sanginga include developing and elaborating the IITA Refreshed Strategy 2012 - 2020, setting up the partnerships and capacity Development Directorate Review of human resources, openly engaging public and private partner resource mobilization and advocacy unit, demand-driven and holistic approach to research.

The don pointed out that in Nigeria, IITA had been collaborating

with the federal government on the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, the national agricultural research system and partners adding that in other African countries, IITA has been encouraging job creation and employment generation from agriculture and raising the productivity of smallholder farmers.

He further said IITA has been promoting the incorporation of local content in local food, such as 20% - 40% cassava

flour in bread, adding that substituting half of the wheat flour with cassava flour could save Nigeria \$2.1 billion annually in foreign exchange.

In his remark, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle said the lecture is very apt as the present government has been harping on the importance of agriculture to national development.

Prof. Odekunle said knowledge must not be on the shelf but must be translated to service the need of the people and called on the relevant stakeholders to do the needful.

The Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, in his remark said IITA has impacted directly on food and nutrition all over household in Africa, adding that the University is very much gratified by the presentation.



The Representative of the DG, IITA, Dr. Ken Dashiell presenting the Convocation Lecture at the Caverton Lecture Theatre



# Transformed African Agriculture - DG

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The Representative of the DG, IITA, Dr. Ken Dashiell presenting the Convocation Lecture at the Caverton Lecture Theatre



## 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony: President Buhari Urges Graduands To Shun Violence



The representative of the Visitor, Prof. Abubakar delivering the President's address during the Convocation Ceremony

President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, has urged graduands of the Federal University of Technology, Minna to shun violence and avoid being used as political thugs during the forthcoming general elections in the country.

The Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces gave this advice during the 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day and 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of the University held recently at the SuleimanuKumo Convocation Square, Main Campus.

The President who was represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, FNAL, FNSP, said they should rather participate actively by voting credible candidates into office during the general elections.

President Buhari commended the graduands, their parents and the University Management on the occasion of the convocation ceremony and urged the graduands not to relent in their quest of achieving great accomplishments in life.

The President disclosed that his administration was committed to delivery on its promises of improving

security, creating job opportunities and eliminating corruption, adding that the fight against corruption is yielding the much needed results.

"My administration has also doubled its efforts in stamping out corruption from the public life of our nation. It is common knowledge that our security agencies are currently prosecuting or seriously attending to corruption cases involving high profile Nigerians. We shall continue to wage war against corruption and indiscipline until we succeed in creating a polity decent enough to promote genuine progress and prosperity of our people," The President stated.

Delivering his speech at the event, the Executive Governor of Niger State, Alh. (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello said the State was delighted to have FUT, Minna in Niger State which has become one of the most sought-after universities of technology in the country due to the high standards, high moral rectitude of the lecturers and students, as well as the peaceful and congenial learning environment.

"I also wish to congratulate the Council, Senates, Vice-Chancellor, Management and all students of this dynamic University. It is gratifying that in the past

thirty-six years, Federal University of Technology, Minna has lived up to the expectations of Nigerians in terms of access and opportunity for University education. This occasion of its 28<sup>th</sup> convocation is therefore a milestone in the history of the University with the insecurity challenges that has characterized the educational sector lately, many Nigerian parents are happy to send their wards to FUT, Minna because of the peace and security that is guaranteed in the State," the Governor disclosed.

The Governor who was represented by the Hon. Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Science and Education, Alh. Muhammadu Adamu congratulated the graduands on the successful completion of their programmes and urged them to continue to maintain the standard imbibed from the institution wherever they go.

In his address, the University Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) congratulated Council, Management, staff and students of the institution on the occasion of its 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' day and 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony, saying that the event was a further confirmation of the University's well documented contributions to the growth of the nation's education sector as well as a testament to the fact that FUT, Minna has come of age in terms of research, teaching and quality of its graduands.

The Chancellor who is also the Chairman, Abia State and South-East Council of Traditional Rulers noted that the University was committed to raising a hard working and confident graduates who are ready to compete in the highly competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century market place of innovations, inventions, discoveries as well as information and ideas designed to make great difference on business, professional work and to impact on humanity.

"This is indeed a moment of joy for all of us and I wish to congratulate the graduands on the successful conclusion of their academic programmes in this reputable citadel of learning despite the

*cont'd on page 5*



well-documented challenges faced during the period of their studentship here. It is gratifying to note that, in spite of these challenges, you all held on within the tenets of the laws governing the conduct of students on campus to be found worthy in character and in learning, hence your graduation today which also signals your automatic membership of the noble FUT, Minna Alumni Association. Once more, congratulations on your academic accomplishments in this University," the Chancellor said.

The Royal Father advised the graduands to be good ambassadors of the University wherever they find themselves in the society as they have the key to unlock different untapped opportunities in the world.

He commended the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, *fssn*, for the rapid infrastructural development and expansion of programmes in the University under his leadership.

"I am also happy that the University is moving forward in all ramifications under your watch, particularly your recent breakthrough in securing a deal with Urban Shelter Limited for the construction of students' hostel which I feel will provide an environment that would stimulate effective learning for students with a view to building human capacity for the nation across different sectors," the Chancellor said.

While delivering his address, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. Femi Odekunle congratulated the graduands for being worthy recipients of the University degree while noting that the training and the degree conferred on them would enable them to face the challenges of life with immense confidence.

The Pro-Chancellor said the Council of the University was proud to be associated with the achievements recorded so far within one year of assumption of office of the Vice-Chancellor.

"The Council has also taken keen interest in the sustenance of integrity and discipline in the University. To this end, Council expeditiously treated cases of misconduct, plagiarism and sexual

harassment of a female student brought to her attention and to demonstrate Council's zero-tolerance for gross indiscipline or misconduct, those involved have been promptly and appropriately sanctioned," the Pro-Chancellor disclosed.

The Pro-Chancellor said the Council successfully conducted the exercise of selecting a new Registrar for the University in the person of Mr. Amos Kolo, adding that Council also approved the appointment of Prof. Emmanuel Udensi as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), having been elected and recommended by the Senate of the University.

The don assured staff, students and all stakeholders of the University that Council under his able leadership would continue to do its utmost best to take the University to the next level in all facets.

"I must acknowledge the continued hospitality and cooperation of our host community. Special thanks go to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Niger State, Alh. (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello, former leaders of our country, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and General Abdulsalami Abubakar as well as our Royal fathers for treating the University as their own.

I also wish to publicly thank and appreciate the following: my colleagues on the Governing Council for their support in keeping the University on the path of integrity, probity, accountability and due process; the entire Management, Senate and staff of the University for their dedication to duty; the staff, students and the various Unions for their cooperation in the smooth running of the institution and the maintenance of peace on our campuses", the don disclosed.

He commended the University Management for their dedication and passion for the University while noting that their commitment to the affairs of the University was a tonic to the belief that the vision of the University to become a world class and leading University recognized for its excellence in capacity building and service delivery remains on course.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of

the University, Prof. Bala, commended dignitaries for honouring the University's invitation despite their tight schedules necessitated by the exigencies of governance and electioneering campaigns.

The VC said February 1<sup>st</sup> of every year marks the University's Founders' day, adding that the University has been holding its convocation on the same day with its Founders' day which is consistent with global best practices and true to the University core values of excellence, integrity and quality service delivery.

"The certificates of all our graduands are ready for collection immediately after this ceremony. In addition, I want to assure all the first degree graduands that the University is ready to mobilize them for the National Youth Service as soon as NYSC calls for it," the VC revealed.

"This year's convocation ceremony is for the 2017/18 academic session and we are graduating a total number of 4,443 students. This number is made up of 3,671 awardees for First degrees and 772 for postgraduate degrees and diplomas. Among the recipients of First degrees are 2,808 that graduated from the University's nine Schools and 863 from three affiliate institutions namely; Federal College of Education (Technical) Akoka, Federal College of Education (Technical), Potiskum and Kaduna Polytechnic.

He disclosed that 72 of the graduands got First Class, 941 Second Class Upper, 1,905 Second Class Lower, 707 Third Class and 46 Pass degree".

Prof. Bala stated that the University has continued to record outstanding successes and profound progress in the discharge of its core mandate of teaching, research and community service, noting that the University is ranked among the top ten universities in Nigeria and still maintains its position as not only the best University of Technology but also the number one specialized university in the country.

The University helmsman said the University recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Huawei Technologies Company Limited, China to operate a Huawei Authorised Information and Network Academy (HAINA) for the training of staff and students in ICT.

The Convocation ceremony is the second under the leadership of Prof. Abdullahi Bala.



# FUTMINNA GETS NOD FOR WASCAL PHD PROGRAMME AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS



7th & 8th from right: VC, Prof. Bala and ED, WASCAL, Dr. Savadogo in a group photograph with principal officers and WASCAL Advisory Board members after the visit.

The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Federal University of Technology, Minna has been given the go-ahead to commence a doctoral programme.

Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo who was on a visit to the University on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 disclosed this when he met with Principal Officers as well as the Advisory and Academic Board Members of WASCAL, at the Senate Chamber, GidanKwano Campus.

Dr. Savadogo said they are proud of the excellent work FUT, Minna is doing, hence the decision to upgrade its Masters Research Programme (MRP) on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use to a PhD.

He added that the theme of the PhD programme to be offered in the University will be Climate Change and Human Habitat.

The Executive Director lauded FUT, Minna for the quality of its training, saying that most graduates of its WASCAL programme are either employed or enrolled in PhD

programmes.

WASCAL, he said, was established in response to climate change as it became necessary to develop strategies and methods to cope with the challenge.

Dr. Savadogo added that the beauty of WASCAL is in its great contribution to regional integration.

A total of 195 students have graduated from its programmes across the sub-region, 99 and 96 at the masters' doctoral levels respectively, he further disclosed.

He thanked the University for its excellent collaboration with the sub-regional centre and looked forward to more collaborations.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, expressed happiness with the WASCAL project which he said has added colour, glamour and quality to the postgraduate programmes of the University. He described the MRP as truly international and timely as internationalisation is a topical issue for universities.

Prof. Bala noted that WASCAL is

touching on germane issues and assured that the University would continue to support the programme.

The Vice-Chancellor commended the Director of WASCAL in FUT, Minna, Prof. Apollonia Okhimamhe for her doggedness and self-denial that led to the success of centre.

Earlier, Prof. Okhimamhe did a PowerPoint presentation on the development and progress of WASCAL in the University.

The WASCAL officials were taken on a tour of WASCAL facility at FUT, Minna main campus.

Dr. Savadogo was accompanied to the University by the WASCAL's Director, Capacity Building Department, Prof. Janet Adelegan and the Deputy Director of WASCAL at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Dr. Vincent Ajayi. He commended the University for the facilities provided at the Centre.

WASCAL, a German government-backed initiative with headquarters in Accra, Ghana, is currently training students in 10 universities across West Africa.



# US EMBASSY OFFICIAL VISITS FUTMINNA, SEEKS COLLABORATION

• We Have Capacity to Work With US Govt – FUTMinna VC



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala discussing with the US Envoy, Mr. Amirthanayagam during the visit in his office

The Public Affairs representative of the United States of America Embassy in Nigeria, Mr. Aruna Amirthanayagam has solicited for collaboration between the Federal University of Technology, Minna and the US.

The US envoy made this remark when he paid a courtesy visit on the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at the VC's office, Main Campus.

Mr. Amirthanayagam said the purpose of the visit was to establish a robust working relationship with the University, based on its findings which placed the institution above other universities in the country in terms of quality research output.

He hailed the quality of research prototypes exhibited at the Department of Mechatronics Engineering while noting that, he never thought of seeing such innovative research fabrications in Nigerian universities.

He expressed the readiness of the US

Embassy to provide platforms for research funding for the University researchers towards ensuring that the prototypes are commercialized in order to provide additional stream of revenue for the University, as is the practice in the United States.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala expressed appreciation to the guest for making out time to visit the University, noting that the University has a very long working relationship with the US.

"FUTMinna is the best university among the specialized universities in Nigeria and the first among the third-generation universities in Nigeria. So, we are glad that you have found us worthy for the partnership," the VC disclosed.

While reiterating the University's commitment towards partnering with the US government, Prof. Bala assured that FUT, Minna has the capacity and relevant resources to work with the US government in improving the level of collaboration between both institutions.

The US envoy later took a tour of the department of Mechatronics Engineering exhibition room in company of the Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers.

He was received at the exhibition room by the Head of Department, Mechatronics Engineering, Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu who explained all the research prototypes done by staff and students of the department.

Prof. Aibinu informed the US envoy that all the prototypes were research output from grants won by researchers in the department and solicited for the support of the US Embassy towards the construction of the proposed Advanced Engineering Innovation Centre.

Prof. Aibinu who is also the Director, Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) of the University, expressed the readiness of the department to collaborate with the US in the areas of research collaboration and training.



# Memories, Laughter As Friends Honour Prof Bala With Lecture



FUTMinna Bursar, Mrs. Hajara Kuso Abdullahi presenting a plaque to the VC on behalf of ex-students of FGC, Minna

**A**s a mark of honour for his friendship and accomplishment as a scholar, friends of the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, *fssn*, have organised a lecture to commemorate his one year in office.

The event which held on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at the Zuma Rock Golf resorts, Abuja- Kaduna Road, was a reunion of sorts filled with sweet memories and camaraderie as Prof. Bala, his childhood friends and school mates bantered as they recalled their days in school.

A Committee of Friends had put together the lecture, with the topic: *Uses and Abuses of the Social Media*, which was masterfully delivered by Dr. Abubakar Alhassan of the Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University, Kano.

In the lecture, Dr. Alhassan described the social media as a double edged sword with many good sides and ills

as well.

He explained the various uses and abuses of the social media. Some of the solutions he proffered to the abuses were: self-discipline among users, setting of usage limit, quitting most groups, searching for news from the websites of the desired news media instead of social media and being ethical.

He also warned social media users to beware of the cyber crimes act, violation of which has stiff penalties.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka who delivered a goodwill message on behalf of the University, extolled the Vice-Chancellor's leadership qualities. He commended Prof. Bala for his focus and ability to inspire.

There were also goodwill messages from the honoree's old classmates, members of the Dawaki Community in Suleja and Bosso community among others.

The University Bursar, Mrs. Hajara Kuso Abdullahi who attended the same secondary school (Federal

Government College, Minna) with the VC, presented an award to the honoree. Guests erupted in laughter when she jokingly said they were not presenting the plaque to the VC but to "Senior Bala."

In his response, Prof. Bala noted that his first year in office has been rewarding as he has been able to attract funds to the University and effect many changes.

He disclosed that the successes would not have been possible without the support of members of the community as most of the help the University received were facilitated by them.

The VC assured the organisers and all stakeholders that he would not take the social capital which their support represents for granted as he intends to use such for the good of FUT, Minna and Nigeria.

The VC thanked members of the University community, the Suleja community and his family for their support.

Dignitaries at the well-attended lecture were the Hon. Minister of State for

*cont'd on page 9*



Mines and Steel Development, Alh. Abubakar Bawa Bwari; Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Hon. Ahmed Marafa Gunni; the Sarkin Yaki Zazzau, Engr. Mohammed Sani Alhassan who represented the HRH the Sarkin Zazzau Suleja, Mall. Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, CON; Hon. Shuaibu Liman, representing Suleja Constituency at the Niger State House of Assembly; Principal Officers and members of FUT, Minna Governing Council, among others.

### MINISTER, SPEAKER EXTOL PROF BALA

The Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari has expressed happiness

with efforts of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala.

The Minister who made the remark on Saturday, December 8, 2018 during the One Year Anniversary lecture in honour of the VC said he was proud of the good work Prof. Bala is doing in both the University and society as a whole.

He recalled with fond memories how he used to visit Federal Government College (FGC), Minna, when Prof. Bala was still a student there.

The Minister therefore expressed happiness to join in celebrating the VC with a befitting lecture.

Hon. Bwari prayed for divine guidance for the VC to continue to work in the interest of the country.

Also speaking at the event, the Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Hon. Ahmed Marafa Gunni who is also an ex-student of FGC, Minna congratulated Prof. Bala on the occasion, just as he thanked Principal Officers, staff and students of the University for supporting the Vice-Chancellor to succeed.

On his part, HRH, the Sarkin Zazzau Suleja, Mall. Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, CON, urged Prof. Bala to continue with his good work in the University and be fair and equitable to all.

He commended the organisers of the event, saying that the gesture is an indication that the VC has a lot of good friends who can stand behind him.

## Prof Bala Appointed Patron Of FUT Golf Club



R-L: Prof. OSunde presenting appointment letter to the VC, Prof. Bala

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has been appointed as the Patron of the FUT, Minna Golf Club, on Friday, March 15, 2019 at the VC's Office.

The presentation was made by the Captain of the Golf Club, Prof. Akim Osunde,

who said that he believes that the VC will use his good offices to foster the club, and it will also be a good avenue for visitors who are golf lovers instead of directing them somewhere else.

Prof. Bala after receiving the letter said it is his desire to see the Golf Course been developed, adding that, he has been having discussions with Urban Shelter to build a guest house and they are committed in building a 50 rooms guest house in the University.

He also said that as part of the efforts in trying to attract customers outside the University, it is very important to develop the FUT, Minna Golf Course



# Pro-Chancellor Hands Over Site For Hostel Construction To Urban Shelter

In view of the need to address the problems of accommodation in the institution, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle, has handed over site for the construction of student hostels on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis to Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd.

The event took place on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the Main Campus.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony, Prof. Odekunle said that his interest in the University is part of his interest in university education in Nigeria.

He stated that one of his concerns in the university system is the students population which he said is very important because without the students, Management is of no use. So the joy of the students must be considered.

The Chairman of Council recalled that when he was appointed Chairman, one of the first things he did was to visit the hostels to see the living condition of the inhabitants.

He said accommodation provided should also be affordable to every student.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, in his remarks maintained that during his inauguration as the VC, one of the things he mentioned was the need to provide hostel accommodation and to ensure that a vast majority of the students live on campus, so that they will not only pass through the University but the University will pass through them.



The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle (2nd right) supported by the VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (1st right) presenting construction plan to the MD, Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd, Mal. Rilwan Aliyu

The VC said that the Chairman, Urban Shelter is an accomplished technocrat from Niger State and that the intervention is pertinent and symbolic in view of the fact that he is the only person that has so far donated a hostel to the University.

Prof. Bala said the Chairman's contribution to the school will send a signal to the local community on the need for them to come in and join hands with the University in trying to see that the University makes giant strides.

He further urged the University community to support them and make sure that the initiative becomes successful.

In his response, the Managing Director, Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd, Mal. Rilwan Aliyu, expressed his gratitude to the Management for giving them the opportunity to serve their home and to give back to the society.

He said the project is planned to be built in four clusters of three blocks each, totaling 12 blocks, which when

completed will house 5,344 students.

Mal. Aliyu who is an alumnus of the University, thanked everyone present and pleaded for their support to move the project ahead.

The Director, Physical Planning and Development Unit (PPDU), Arc. Idris Alhassan thanked the Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd for fulfilling its promise on the hostel project.

In an exclusive interview with Campus News, the Dean, Student Affairs, Prof. Abdulmojeed Ijaiya, expressed his excitement saying that it living off campus is very hectic for students commuting from town to school.

He said majority of the students stay off campus and most times get some bad influences from environments where they live and that the new development will go a long way to reduce some of the problems because one of the vision of the VC is to have more students accommodated on Campus to be able to monitor them and also allow them see the essence of passing through the University.



# Our Researchers Are Attracting Funds To The University – Prof Bala

Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, is a consummate administrator and a renowned scholar par excellence. In this exclusive interview with FUTMinna Newsletter, he speaks on his experience so far as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, University's research direction, the TETFund high impact fund and other germane issues. Excerpts:



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala

**Y**ou just returned from a national assignment as the Returning Officer for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Kwara State. What was your experience like as a Returning Officer?

Very interesting, and this is something I am doing for the first time, so it was quite a new experience for me. But I was glad that I had a set of people that I felt comfortable working with. In the first place, the Resident Electoral

Commissioner (REC) is somebody I knew for close to 30 years now. I knew that he is somebody that is upright and I did not expect anything awkward from him, so I was comfortable. Some of the staff sent from the National Headquarters of INEC and some of the security agencies. Many of the staff were ex-students of FUT, Minna and I felt very much at home. We worked very well together and I believe that the experience was well worth it. It was a very interesting experience.

**Is it something you will like to do again?**

It is a national service anytime. It is something that once you are called upon to do, I think you should do it. I was supposed to travel actually for something else, but because of the elections, the role of the Collation Officer, I had to cancel my trip and to make sure I did it. It is a national service and anytime we should be ready to serve the country when we are called upon to do so.

**Away from the election. How would you describe your experience so far in the last one year as the Vice-Chancellor of the University?**

So far, so good, we thank God for his mercy, for his guidance. There are some challenges but there have also been some successes. Overall, it is a very positive experience. I was lucky in the sense that I came in as an insider. I have been with the University for 30 years now and during that time, I also occupied some positions; head of department, Directors, DVC Administration and later DVC Academic but I have also at different times being a member of Council. So, all of these experiences have contributed in helping me to hit the ground running. We didn't have to say that we were waiting for the adjustment, we already had some



background experience and it has helped in making sure that we started very quickly.

**Recently, the University celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' day and 28th Convocation Ceremony; how would you rate the event?**

To me, I feel it was an outstanding success, considering the kind of congratulatory messages and felicitations we had from various sources, I think it was very successful. Some people were a bit apprehensive in the build up to the Convocation ceremony, given the fact that there was an on-going ASUU strike then. People felt that people may not actually attend, but it turned out to be one of the most well attended Convocation Ceremonies. It was quite a good one.

**In your address at the last Convocation ceremony; you spoke on series of functional Memoranda of Understanding that the University has with some notable organizations; could you please share details of these MoUs with us and what does the University stands to gain from it?**

The MoUs we have been signing are geared towards providing platforms for us to operate jointly with different groups. Most often, on a public, private, partnership (PPP) basis and they address a whole range of issues, starting with the mandate of the University which centres on teaching, research and community service. But also in areas of welfare for staff and students. Also, in terms of the University being able to generate income from other sources. To give you an example, when I came on board as the Vice-Chancellor, we knew that we had problem of a serious deficit in students' accommodation with a students' population of about 23,000 and we are only able to accommodate just about 4,000 students on Campus. We are glad by the fact that we were able to quickly get partners in this respect. Urban Shelter Limited came in and have signed an MoU with us to provide about 5,336 bed spaces within a period of four years, starting with about 1,344 for the first year and they have already mobilised to site. We have also signed an MoU with another Estate Developer, Harmelio Nigeria Limited. They are providing about 960 bed spaces and they have also mobilised to site. That will increase the bed spaces by over 6,000. We will continue to also engage others. There are some others firms who will also come on board so that we can scale up in that respect.

We have been able to secure an approval by Huawei Technologies Limited, a Chinese multinational, in the area of communication and they have granted us ICT status. That is meant to train our students in terms of networking and giving them certification. So, that as they are coming out, they are ready for the market, so they have enhanced skills in the area of networking, especially with respect to equipment from Huawei. That already has succeeded in getting about 56 of our students, they have been trained and they have passed. So, they have that certification. These are people that tomorrow, if they are needed, they are ready, and they don't need any basic training again in that area. It is going to be a continuous process, so many more of our students will be trained in that respect.

Another thing we have tried to do for the students is that we have signed an MoU with GIZ, a German International Development Agency in developing a programme, what we call a start-up loop, so it is a mentoring kind of programme that will train students towards entrepreneurial and managerial enhanced skills so that they are already thinking of marketing products of their research even before leaving the university. So, it provides an opportunity to begin to have entrepreneurial skill in trying to explore market for products of research.

We also have MoUs that are targeted at ensuring that the University increases its income. So, we have had MoU with SCAGRIC and TASJ towards joint large scale agricultural production. For SCAGRIC, the MoU covers cultivation of minimum of 250 hectares of land per annum. For TASJ, we are looking at about 3,000 hectares of land per annum and this will be on a cost sharing basis.

There is another set of MoUs we have signed in other to enhance access to university education to our youth. This is the affiliation programmes, where polytechnics and colleges of education that have the mandate of running Diploma and NCE programmes now are able to link up with the University under the affiliation programme, so that they can begin to run degree programmes.

Since I came in, we have had approval from NUC for affiliation programmes with the Federal Polytechnic, Bida, Federal Polytechnic, Offa and Federal College of Education (Technical), Gusau. For the Federal Polytechnic, Bida, we have approval to run three programmes: Electrical Electronics Engineering, Quantity Surveying and Building Technology. For Federal

**'The MoUs we have been signing are geared towards providing platforms for us to operate jointly with different groups'.**

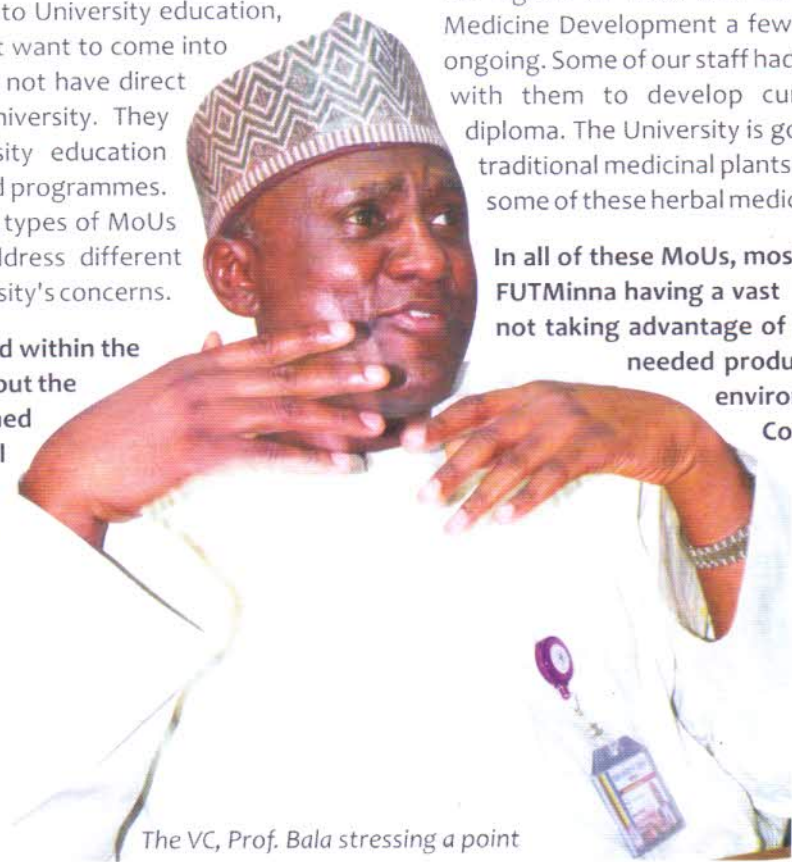


Polytechnic, Offa, we have approval to run Electrical Electronics Engineering, Computer Science, Food Science and Technology as well as Mechanical Engineering, while for the Federal College of Education (Technical), Gusau, the approval is for Industrial and Technological Education in three areas: Metal Work, Wood Work and Electrical Electronics Technology.

This is in addition to existing MoUs that we have with other institutions in this respect. We also have plans already for affiliation programmes; we have Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina State, Niger State Polytechnic, Zungeru, Niger State College of Education, Minna. This is just to make sure that we are able to provide access to University education, especially to those that want to come into the university but may not have direct admission into the university. They can still have university education through these affiliated programmes. These are some of the types of MoUs we have and they address different areas within the University's concerns.

**All these were achieved within the last one year? What about the MoU's that were signed in the past, are they still functional? What are you doing to dust-up some of those MoUs to make them functional?**

Some are still functional, most of them might have actually lapsed, so if there is any need for us to look at them again, we will do that but there are some that I met which are still ongoing, especially in the areas of staff and students exchange programme. So we have MoUs with universities outside Nigeria, both in Africa and in other parts of the world, in Europe, United States and some of them are still ongoing but some have lapsed. I remember, we used to have MoU with Belarus University, but that one has lapsed. However, the desire is to continue to work on these MoUs so as to expand our scope. One of the things I will really want to do is to see that the University starts a programme on Mining Engineering. We have been reaching out to Universities both in Southern Africa and Europe, Asia, Japan in trying to see if we can begin to get



*The VC, Prof. Bala stressing a point*

some Professors that will come in and start the programme for us. Many more MoUs will come on board as we go along.

**Still on the MoU Sir, how far with that of Nigerian Communication Satellite (NICOMSAT)?**

It is on-going. It is something that is very much alive and some of the joint supervision by our staff is already ongoing and then there are also efforts to get some of our research products so that it will help us in getting a market for them. So, it is ongoing. Some of these things are slow in taking off, so we are working on them.

We signed an MoU with Natural Agency for National Medicine Development a few months ago, which is also ongoing. Some of our staff had to travel to Lagos, sit down with them to develop curriculum in postgraduate diploma. The University is going to nurture some of the traditional medicinal plants that will be used to prepare some of these herbal medicines.

**In all of these MoUs, most people have talked about FUTMinna having a vast land mass and that we are not taking advantage of this to produce the much needed products for Niger State and its environs. We have the University**

**Commercial Farm, what have you been able to do in the past one year to see how the University Commercial Farm can be more vibrant?**

In terms of leveraging on our land resources, there are about three different components now. The first one is the University Commercial Farm, we are working on it and

restructuring the Committee that is responsible, having an oversight function but we are not looking at it alone. We have signed MoU with two groups, the SCAGRIC and TASJ, what we have decided now is that given the fact that we are going to have so many activities within the agricultural sector, we are going to set up a Committee, what we call Commercial Agricultural Management Committee that will be looking at and in charge of having an oversight of all these agricultural production within the campus, including the commercial farm. The commercial farm will be given directive as to what they will do this year. We have in the last one year purchased additional implements for them, tractor implements for them and we are also going to provide additional resources for storage of farm produce



but above all, we have given matching orders to the Management of the farm as to what to do in terms of production.

It is not only going to be just crop production because we have set up a Committee that looked at the problems with the University Farm under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. O. E. Sadiku, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration). They have submitted their report and we have looked at it and we insist that the farm will be integrated. So, it is not going to be only crop; they have to be involved in animal production and fisheries. We are looking at a three-year interim transitional arrangement towards making the farm to be independent. It is going to be on its own but of now, there will be some funding from the University. So, for the next three years, we are going to manage and make sure it is self-sustaining in that respect. Then, there is the issue of the other commercial companies that is the TASJ and SCAGRIC. Those ones are bringing in their own funding; our own is to provide the land and some technical backstopping in terms of what they are going to do.

In also leveraging our land resources, we are looking at the Mining sector. Already, we have a Mining license, so we have now gone back to work through the Department of Geology in doing additional geological and geophysical survey in trying to do proper mapping so that we will get information that will allow us to apply for small scale mining lease. So, once we get the mining lease, we will get proper partners that will now come and do proper mining in the areas we feel we have some metallic and industrial elements within the University Farm.

There used to be a Commercial Activities Committee which was responsible for all commercial activities on the campus, we are going to restart the Committee and we are now trying to see the membership of the Committee but very soon, we will have a Committee in place that will be looking at all other opportunities that we think that the University can leverage on to improve the income of the University. We are working on all those ones and I believe that in the next two to three months, all of these things will have been put in place.

**Recently, the University finally got the TETFund high impact fund of N3 billion naira. What is the University's plan for this money?**

The University has not taken a final decision as to what we are going to use the money for. We have a three -

month window to sit down and decide and make proposal to TETFund. Very soon, we are going to have a meeting of the Physical Planning and Development Committee. It is a Committee of the Council that will sit down and look at proposals and then make proposal to Council and then Council will take a stand. But I think the ideas that are aggregating are coming from the retreat we had last year. We had a retreat on Transitional Committees and if you recall, one of the Transitional Committees was on Infrastructure to say, okay give us priority in terms of infrastructural projects that the University should be looking at. Whatever decision we are going to do will largely be guided by that particular recommendation. If you recall some of those priorities are relocation of the School of Life Sciences, School of Physical Sciences and getting a building for School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology and

then there is this 7.5 MVA step-down

transformer and there was also the issue of an auditorium. So, all of these things will

be looked at. So, we are going to be guided by those recommendations.

But then, in giving us the high impact fund, there are also rules in accessing the money and TETFund

expects that the money should be expended across a minimum of two faculties and a maximum of three faculties. So, we will look at it in

that manner and see what are those faculties to be given priority in terms of

what we are going to do. But a major thing we

are looking at will be the issue of state-of-the-art lecture theatre because we have shortage of lecture theatres and these are many of those things we will be looking at in addition to office buildings but these are just my thoughts until we really sit down and decide on what exactly it is that we want to do and then we will make a proposal to TETFund but that will be done in the next two months or so.

**VC Sir, how was the feeling like when University finally got this high impact fund because I know that your predecessors Prof.M. S. Audu and Prof. M. A.Akanjmade several attempts during their tenures to get this fund. How was the feeling like?**

I was highly elated. You know this is something as you said is long overdue. Most of the other universities in the North Central zone have had this high impact fund at different times. Each time we thought the University would get it but another institution within the zone would get it instead. I have to thank the Chairman of Council and some members of the Council for their

*cont'd on page 34*



# FUTMinna Holds 2-day Retreat

In line with its drive towards attaining world class status and keeping faith with the dreams of its founding fathers in accordance with its mission and vision, the Federal University of Technology, Minna had a two-day Retreat on Presentation of Reports of Transitional Committees.

The retreat, held recently at the Chemical Engineering Lecture theatre, had the presence of about 158 participants drawn from various Departments, Units and Centres of the University.

In a brief presentation titled: Taking Federal University of Technology Minna to the Next Level, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, said the University's core value is commitment to global best practices which encompasses excellence, innovation or creativity and entrepreneurship. Others are inclusiveness/equity, responsiveness as well as timeliness and integrity.

The helmsman continued with a charge on revenue generation strategies where, he said, the existing sources could be enhanced and leakages

“There are five transition committees namely Revenue Generation and Entrepreneurship; Campus-Community Relations and Infrastructure. Others are Development of Technology and Students/Alumni Support Service,” he revealed.

Thereafter each of the committees made presentations and recommendations in accordance with their terms of reference. Their recommendations are in line with global best practices that need to be inculcated in the day-to-day management of the University.

After extensive deliberations, a communique was issued at the end of the retreat where participants noted that there is paucity of funds to execute most needs of the University as well as inadequate power supply and IT infrastructure to support the University activities.

Participants also called on the University to entrench entrepreneurial culture, build business capacity and attraction of funding support for students as well as making the University policies to support students-

development areas including research industry collaboration.

Speaking further in his closing remarks, Prof. Bala assured that all that was discussed would not remain on paper as Management intends to implement them.

“We may not be able achieve all that was discussed but we would make sure we achieve essential part of it so that we lay a solid foundation so that others would continue from where we stop,” he concluded.

Earlier in his remarks the Adjunct Prof., from Illinois State University, Prof. Chika Nnamani, who has visited various campuses in the world to participate in similar retreat, commended the intellectual power of the University and for taking giant stride on the path of excellence. He admired the commitment and the robust nature of the debates which he said was very encouraging.

“The intellectual will power of this campus is amazing. I commend the Vice-Chancellor for creating such an environment where people are committed to making the system a force to be reckoned with in the world. Hardly in any system do people who are working diligently like you not know what is wrong with the system, I commend you for speaking out. You have done the hard part the easy part is to begin and be committed,” he charged.

He described the achievements of the exercise as collective effort while calling on all to trust the system.

In his vote of thanks the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Iyaka thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the initiative, the drive and leadership. He also thanked the

transitional committee members for working assiduously to make the retreat happen. Prof. Iyaka thanked the Adjunct Prof., the Registrar and his team as well as everyone for their time and patience while wishing them journey mercies to their various destinations.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala, POs and participants in a group photograph after the retreat

blocked, including investments in the commercial farm and FUTMIN Ventures. Another area of income generation to be looked into, he stated, is the Advancement office that comprises alumni, endowments and donations.

industry collaboration and work-study programmes among others.

The communique further advised that there should be massive deployment of modern technology in teaching and learning and also provide incentives in interdisciplinary researches in core



## FUTMINNA STAFF COOPERATIVE DECLARES N16.5M PROFIT • VC Task Cooperatives To Invest In Hostel Accommodation

Despite the turbulent events that characterised its activities in the last one year, the Federal University of Technology, Minna Staff Multi-Purpose Society Limited has declared a profit of N16,503,104.48 for the year ended December 31, 2017.

This declaration was made during the 23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Cooperative held at the CPES Hall, Bosso Campus, Minna.

The profit represented a shortfall of N1,757,029.89 as against the N18,260,134.35 declared for the year ended 2016 at the last AGM.

Speaking further, the Treasurer of the Cooperative Society, Mal. Ahmed Isyaku commended members for investing in the Cooperative Society, adding that the Cooperative was well placed now to cater for their needs based on its robust financial base.

He disclosed that the total thrift savings of the Cooperative as at 2017 stood at N617,492,433.00, while the total cumulative outstanding balance stood at N468,364,447.69.

Speaking earlier, the President of the Cooperative Society, Mal. Mohammed Ashafa Aminu thanked members of the Cooperative Society for their well-documented support which had culminated in the success recorded by the new executives, saying that he was committed to the ideals and principles of his campaign promises during the last election.



The representative of the VC, Prof. Udensi delivering the VC's address at the AGM, while the Cooperative Society President, Mal. Ashafa watches with keen interest

The President stated that the Cooperative Society had introduced series of innovative drives aimed at effective service delivery for members, including the integration of information and communication technology in its operations in line with global best practices.

He informed members at the AGM that the present executives are working assiduously towards recouping all funds that are tied down due to lack of deduction and poor record keeping by the former executives.

"The Dama land case is still in the court and we have tried to settle out of court as advised by the former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Akanji but the other family joined in the case are not willing to accept our offer. Let me assure you all that we will do everything possible to recoup every penny spent on the land," he disclosed.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala,

fsssn, congratulated shareholders on the occasion of the AGM, adding that the event had further showed that the Cooperative Society is financially stable and healthy.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Udensi urged the various Cooperative Societies in the University to invest in hostel accommodation on campus in order to assist Management to address the problem of hostel accommodation for students.

He expressed satisfaction with the activities of the various Cooperative Societies on campus and urged them to continue to be transparent in their dealings as well as to protect members' investment.

This is the first AGM to be organised by the Mal. Aminu-led executives after taking over the mantle of leadership during the last AGM.



# FUTMinna Wins Ministry Of Mines Research Grant



Minister of State, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Alh. Abubakar Bawa Bwari presenting the letter of grant award to Director of DRID, FUT, Minna Prof. Hussaini Makun

**T**hree lecturers from the Department of Geology, Federal University of Technology, Minna have won a nine million naira research grant of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.

Former Head of the Department, Dr. Idris-Nda Abdullahi (lead researcher) along with two of his colleagues, Dr. Nuhu Waziri and Dr. Thomas Ako won the grant for a collaborative work titled: "Geological Mapping and Assessment of Metallic and Industrial Minerals in Parts of North Central Nigeria (FCT, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Niger States)."

In an address during the presentation of the awards which took place recently in the Conference Room of the Ministry, in Abuja, the Minister of State, Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari disclosed that the occasion marked the first time ever that the Ministry was having such a research collaboration with Nigerian tertiary institutions. He expressed delight over the development and assured that it would be sustained.

The minister further disclosed that a total of 84 million naira was disbursed among 11 universities that won the grants and urged the

benefitting institutions to stick to the terms of reference of the awards and complete the work within six months as stipulated.

Hon Bwari said the universities won the grants based on the merit of their proposals and the potential to develop the mining sector.

He said the release of the funds for research development and collaboration to benefitting universities will increase the geosciences data available for investors in mining sector.

Hon. Bwari expressed hope that the effort will help improve the quality of learning by impacting on the students and lecturers that would be involved in field work.

The minister disclosed that the second phase of the collaboration will soon commence, adding that the ministry intended to, in future, increase the amount available for each research and further narrow the areas of study in order to deepen the actualisation of its roadmap.

He called on tertiary institutions in the country to collaborate with the ministry to give Nigeria a befitting place on the mining world map.

Earlier in his remarks, Chairman of the Ministry's Steering Committee, Prof. Olugbenga Okunola disclosed that proposals were received from 15 Nigerian universities, screened by the committee comprising five professors and 11 were found to be relevant to the Mining Sector Roadmap.

He said that on completion of the studies, a peer review exercise will follow.

The Director, Research, Innovations and Development of FUT, Minna, Prof. Hussaini Makun received the award letter on behalf of the University.

Speaking with Campus News after the event, the lead researcher Dr. Abdullahi, said they had put in a lot of effort to ensure that their proposal was one of the best in the area they intend to work.

He expressed happiness that their efforts were crowned with success and gave assurances that they would study expeditiously to complete the work within the time limit.

Responding on behalf of the benefitting institutions, Vice-Chancellor of IBBU, Prof. Nasiru Maiturare described the event as a landmark and enjoined other ministers to follow suit in the direction of collaborating with Nigerian universities.

He said that the event has given life to Nigeria's quest for diversification and development of its mineral deposits, just as it amplifies the federal government's drive for local content.

Prof. Maiturare thanked the minister for recognising the talents and patronising the resources in Nigerian universities in order to develop the country's economy. He assured that the universities would deliver the assignments beyond the expectations of the ministry.

A breakdown of the awards shows that other universities that won the same amount of grant with FUT, Minna are: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; University of Nigeria, Nsukka and Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU), Lapai.

University of Ibadan, University of Lagos, University of Port Harcourt, Nasarawa State University and Ebonyi State University all won grants worth N6.5 million each.

It may be recalled that the FUT, Minna had in 2017 received a reconnaissance permit and exploration licence issued by the Nigerian Mining Cadastre Office.



# FUTMINNA CHANCELLOR COMMENDS VC

## • Prof Bala Introduces New Registrar to Chancellor

The Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) has commended the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, for the infrastructural development and expansion of academic programmes on-going in the University.

The Chancellor stated this yesterday when the Vice-Chancellor who was accompanied by the new and former Registrars of the institution, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo and Mrs. Victoria Nnawo Kolo paid him a courtesy visit in his palace in Aba, Abia State.

The Chancellor who is also the Chairman, Abia State and South East Council of Traditional Rulers maintained that the VC's infrastructural drive would assist the institution in the training of competent manpower for the country.

His Eminence assured the Vice-Chancellor of his constant support at all times in order to make the University a world-class citadel of learning where students would be equipped with innovative skills needed to transform the fortunes of the country for good.

"I am also happy that the University is moving forward in all ramifications under your watch, particularly your recent breakthrough in securing a deal with Urban Shelter Limited for the construction of students' hostel which I feel will provide an environment that would stimulate effective learning for students with a view to building human capacity for the nation across different sectors," the Chancellor disclosed.

The Chancellor congratulated the new Registrar, Mr. Kolo for attaining the milestone in his career and urged him to cooperate with the Vice-Chancellor so that the University can attain its mandates.

The Royal Father further congratulated the former Registrar of the University, Mrs. Kolo for rounding off her tenure as Registrar in sound health and mind while applauding her

for the numerous innovations she brought to bear in the discharge of her duties during her tenure.

"I urge you to continue to provide the much needed support to the new Registrar so that the University will attain the lofty dreams of its founding fathers," he advised.

The Chancellor assured the visiting team that he would attend the next Convocation and Founders' Day celebration of the University.

"I must commend the University for being consistent in the past six years in the conduct of its Convocation ceremonies as and when due with certificates given to the graduating students the same day in line with global best practices," the Royal Father applauded.

Speaking earlier, Prof. Bala said the purpose of the visit was to notify the Chancellor about the forthcoming Convocation ceremony of the University slated for February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 as well as to introduce the new Registrar of the University, Mr. Kolo to him.

"It is a transition from one Kolo to another Kolo but there is no biological relationship," the VC noted.

The VC informed the Chancellor that Mr. Kolo has settled down well in his new office and comes on board with impressive credentials due to the fact that he has occupied every position

available in the Registry Department before become the Registrar of the institution.

"Mr. Kolo has a lot of experience in University administration and I am confident that he will do well in his new position," Prof. Bala enthused.

Prof. Bala thanked the former Registrar, Mrs. Kolo for all the innovations she brought to the institution during her tenure, saying that it contributed in no small measure in getting the name of the University to higher level.

On the Convocation, the University helmsman disclosed that the institution has commenced all the necessary arrangements for the arrival of the University Chancellor, adding that the Convocation would go ahead in spite of the on-going strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

He also informed the Chancellor that the University has another addition to Management in person of Prof. Emmanuel Udensi (DVC Admin), who is one of the illustrious sons from the South East, noting that he would be introduced to the Chancellor during the Convocation ceremony.

Prof. Bala thanked the Royal Father and his cabinet members for the warm reception accorded the visiting team.

It will be recalled that His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick was appointed by the Federal Government as Chancellor of the University in 2015.



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (middle) introducing the Registrar, Mr. Amos Kolo (right) to the Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) (left)



# NCC BOSS CALLS FOR COLLABORATION

## FUTMinna To Set-Up Centre for Emerging Technologies - Prof Bala



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (7th from right); Representative of Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO, Mr. Austin Nwaulure (8th from right), former Vice-Chancellor of FUT, Minna, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji (10th from right), Principal Officers of the University and other participants in a group photograph after the event.

The Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta has called for effective collaboration among universities, industries and regulators in the country in order to ensure economic growth and sustainability.

The NCC helmsman stated this recently during the opening session of a 2-day workshop for Academia, industry and other Stakeholders in the North-Central zone titled: **Synergy by Academia, Industry and Regulator as Accelerator for Innovation, Industry Growth and Sustainability** held at the Doko International Hotels, Minna.

Prof. Danbatta, represented by NCC Director, Spectrum and Development, Mr. Austin Nwaulure disclosed that advancement in technology across several spheres of human endeavour has increased the speed at which alignment between the different stakeholders in the economy needs to take place to ensure that no aspect of the nation's development is left lagging.

He noted that there is need for regulators to raise their game to ensure regulations are relevant to existing realities on ground in view of the fast-evolving technology ecosystem.

"The academia is a key driver of innovation in all spheres of human endeavour. But in specific terms, the ideas, inventions and improvements that emanate from the academia are required by industry for improved

efficiencies and productivity. With these in mind, the regulator as a critical component of any ecosystem aims to ensure all stakeholders are protected and the industry nurtured for maximum benefit to business and society," he said.

The growth of new technologies such as internet of things (IoT), artificial intelligence, cloud computing, increased delivery of speed by various broadband technologies like 4G and 5G technologies, advancement in processor and other electronic technologies have led to huge opportunities and risks. Hence, the need for collaboration between academia, industry and regulators to ensure that these technologies can be properly harnessed and standard built in such a way that is beneficial to all stakeholders. The potential opportunities and important aspects that should be considered by all stakeholders are critical aspects that the academia are invited to research and proffer pragmatic solutions," the NCC boss stated.

He tasked the academia to study the impact of various practices and issues peculiar to the Nigerian operating environment on the operational efficiency and service delivery capability and performance by telecommunications industry players and subscribers.

Also speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof.

Abdullahi Bala fsssn, commended the management team of NCC for choosing FUT, Minna to host the event, adding that the University would continue to champion novel research in ICT development for the benefit of the society.

Prof. Bala disclosed that the University is presently putting modalities in place for the establishment of a Centre for Emerging Technologies to tackle some security problems being faced by the country.

"As the best specialized University in Nigeria, I feel that there is need for us to conduct cutting-edge

research into emerging security problems such as; crypto-currency, cyber security, Ponzi scheme like the Mavrodi Mondial Moneybox (MMM) and digital policing. The Centre when established will assist in providing solutions to these problems and others," he said.

Speaking during a panel discussion at the event, Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu who led the discussion on; **Current Industry Needs, Skills Gap and Bridging the Gap** said there is need for synergy between universities and industries in the country, adding that industries operating in Nigeria should entrust Nigerian universities with their research needs instead of outsourcing it abroad.

Prof. Aibinu who is a recipient of NCC research grant urged other government agencies to emulate NCC by funding research across tertiary institutions in the country.

The former Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji led the panel discussion on Public Private Partnership Collaboration and Funding of Prototype Development and Production.

The workshop was held at the Doko International Hotels, Minna because of the on-going strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

The workshop is in furtherance of the Commission's drive in maintaining collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the industry.



# VC CALLS FOR SMOOTH TAKE OFF, AS ACE IMPACT BOOTCAMP ENDS IN DJIBOUTI



Prof. Udensi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Admin) (right) and ACEMFS Centre Leader Prof. Hussaini Makun (left) at the just concluded ACE IMPACT Workshop in Djibouti

The Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has urged the Africa Centre of Excellence on Mycotoxin and Food Safety (ACEMFS), FUTMinna to work assiduously for a smooth take off of the centre.

The VC gave this charge at the 10<sup>th</sup> ACE 1 workshop and ACE Impact Bootcamp which took place from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019 in Djibouti, East Africa.

Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Udensi, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the World Bank is interested in getting Africa developed by providing grants and credits for the implement a lot of projects that stimulate economic growth.

He described the workshop as an exciting one and a good training which will strengthen the capacity of the staff towards a smooth running of the centre.

Prof. Bala noted that the five year term of the project has begun counting and enjoined the team to work together with its partners and stakeholders to achieve the implementation plan of the project.

The Vice-Chancellor further reiterated the University's commitment to the Centre adding that ACEMFS will get full institutional support as its success will attract national and international reference to the University.

In his opening remarks, The ACE Impact Task Team Leader (World Bank), Mr. Andreas Bloom said the World Bank and the French Development Agency (AFD) in collaboration with African governments have conditionally identified

44 ACEs (26 new ones and 18 from ACE1); five Emerging centres, five colleges and schools of engineering for funding through this new phase called "ACE IMPACT," adding that it is critical that they get the new ACEs started in the right direction by providing experts to guide them and secure Vice-Chancellors support.

Mr. Bloom disclosed that the ACE IMPACT Project is as a result of the amazing success of the ACE1 institution adding that they produced over 2000 PhD's and are counting on the new ACE to scale it up to 5000.

On his part, the Centre Leader, ACEMFS, Prof. Hussaini Makun said it was a laudable decision by the World Bank, Association of Africa Universities (AAU), National Universities Commission (NUC) and French Development Agency (AFD) to have organised the booth camp.

Prof. Makun noted that the bootcamp for ACE Impact which are the new centres, has clearly taught the participants how to effectively operate the centre and strategies on implementation plan, just as it created a platform for networking with the ACE1.

He pointed out that the centre aims at creating learning opportunities and research results that will address Africa's shortage of expertise in food safety and

applicable solutions to ensure the safe, controlled and sufficient food supply that will support economic growth and public health, particularly in West and Central Africa.

Prof. Makun expressed optimism that ACEMFS will be a success story as it has the full support of the Management of the University as well as 46 partners across the six continents of the world, comprising national academic, sectoral and regional partners.

He added that the centre has established links with international institutions that are into food and technology research adding that AAU has opened a platform for all ACE's in Africa for interrelation.

The centre leader noted that the regulatory bodies in the West and Central African countries have indicated interest to partner with ACEMFC in terms of training to acquire higher degrees in the area of food safety and toxicology which will help them evaluate their food, do toxicological evaluation and establish their own legislative standards.

The ACE for Development Impact was attended by the World Bank, AAU, AFD, NUC and other stakeholders. The Conference was declared open by the President of the Republic of Djibouti, His Excellency, Mr. Ismail Omar Guellen on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at Kempinski Hotel, Djibouti City, Djibouti.

Discussions at the workshop focused on the challenges of establishing centres of excellence which includes getting international accreditation, student centredness, bridging the Francophone and Anglophone language barrier, World Bank/AFD procedures and requirements and achieving the disbursement link indicators results. There were also plenary sessions for VCs to discuss with their centres.

It was noted at the workshop that the ACEs and University must work fast, efficiently and effectively to meet the project objective in a timely manner as well as have regular dialogues for learning, reviewing progress and jointly solving any challenges.

The nine ACEMFS Administrative Officers were in attendance.



Some exciting pictures taken during the University's Inaugural Lectures



Prof. Bala introducing the Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Yahaya Iyaka



Prof. Y. Iyaka presenting a copy of his lecture booklet to the VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala



The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a plaque to Prof. Iyaka while his wife and daughter looked on with keen interest



The VC, Prof. Bala (2nd from left) flanked by Prof Iyaka (3rd from left) with the Registrar, Mr. Amos Kolo and the Librarian Dr. J. A. Alhassan



The VC Prof. Bala introducing Prof. Francis Arimoro



Prof. Arimoro presenting a copy of his lecture booklet to the VC



Prof. Arimoro with his family members posed for photograph with the plaque presented to him by the VC



Prof. Arimoro (3rd from left) flanked by the VC, Prof. Bala (4th from left) with other Principal Officers





Prof. Bala introducing Arc. Prof. Mrs. Stella Zubairu



Arc. Prof. Stella Zubairu delivering lecture



The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a plague to Prof. Mrs Stella Zubairu while her husband Prof. M. Zubairu looks on



Arc. Prof. Stella Zubairu and family members in a group snapshot



The VC, Prof. Bala introducing the Inaugural Lecture, Prof. Shittu



Prof. Shittu presenting a copy of his lecture booklet to the VC



Prof. Shittu flanked by family members after receiving a plague from the VC



Prof. Shittu (2nd from right), flanked by the VC, Prof. Bala (3rd from left) with other POs





Prof. Bala introducing the Inaugural Lecturer, Prof. Tsado



Prof. Tsado delivering his lecture



The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a plaque to Prof. Tsado and his wife



Prof. Tsado (4th from left) flanked by the VC, Prof. Bala (5th from right) with other Principal Officers



Prof. Bala introducing Prof. Nsofor



Prof. Nsofor delivering his lecture



The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a plaque to Prof. Nsofor while his wife looks on



Prof. Nsofor (3rd from right) flanked by the VC, Prof. Bala (3rd from left) with other Principal Officers



# Some exclusive pictures from the 28th Convocation Ceremony



Cross section of University Principal Officers at the Convocation press briefing



The VC, Prof. Bala addressing the Press



The VC, Prof. Bala, Prof Iyaka and the Bursar, Mrs. Hajara Kuso Abdullahi during the Convocation press briefing



Cross section of pressmen during the press briefing



The DVC (Admin.), Prof. E. E. Udensi giving the vote of thanks during the press briefing



Cross section of Council members, the University Bursar, Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi and other Deans during the Convocation lecture.



The representative of the Convocation Lecturer, Dr. Kenton Dashiell delivering the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation lecture of the University.



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala making a remark while the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle and Dr. Dashiell looked on.





Prof. A. O. Osunde making a remark during the Convocation Lecture



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala presenting a plaque to Dr. Dashiell while the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle looks on



The Chairman of Council, Prof. Odekunle in a warm handshake with the Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberечи N. Dick while VC, Prof. Bala looks on



The former VC, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji in a tete-a-tete with the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle at the Convocation dinner



The University's Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberечи N. Dick with his wife at the Convocation cocktail party.



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala welcoming guests to the Convocation cocktail party



The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle addressing dignitaries at the Convocation cocktail party



The University Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberечи N. Dick making a remark at the Convocation cocktail party.



The Chairman, University Ceremonies Committee and the DVC (Admin.), Prof. E. E. Udensi giving the vote of thanks at the cocktail party.



**Exclusive pictures from the 36th Founders' Day and 28th Convocation Ceremony of the University held on February 1st, 2019 at the Suleimanu Kumo Convocation Square**



.L-R: The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, the Executive Secretary NUC, Prof. Rasheed Adamu Abubakar with the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle posed for a snapshot during the convocation.



The University Sergeant at arms, Mr. Reuben Kolo leading the University's Visitor's procession into the Convocation Arena.



The University Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo introducing the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony



The University Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberечи N. Dick declaring the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony open



The Executive Secretary NUC, Prof. Rasheed Adamu Abubakar in warm handshake with the University Chancellor, His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberечи N. Dick during the Convocation ceremony.



The University Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo in a joyful mood with the VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala during the Convocation ceremony



The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle delivering his speech during the Convocation Ceremony



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala delivering his address during the Convocation ceremony

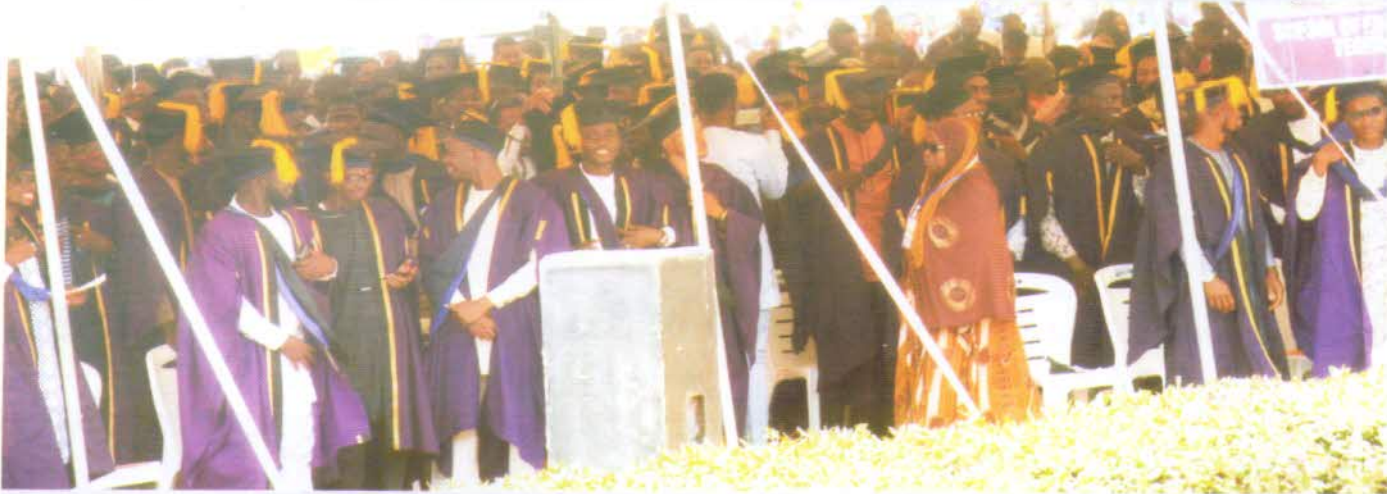




The representative of Niger State Governor delivering his speech during the Convocation ceremony



The representative of the Visitor, the Executive Secretary NUC, Prof. Rasheed Adamu Abubakar delivering the Visitor's address during the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony



Cross section of first degree graduands during the Convocation ceremony



Cross section of postgraduate graduands during the Convocation ceremony



L-R: Former VCs of the University, Prof. M. A. Akanji, Prof. M.S. Audu and the pioneer VC, Prof. J. Ndagi during the Convocation ceremony.



The Executive Secretary NUC, Prof. Rasheed Adamu Abubakar with the representative of Niger State Governor at the event



Cross section of visiting Vice-Chancellors at the Convocation ceremony





Cross section of dignitaries at the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of the University



The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala congratulating the best graduating student, Miss Esther at the Convocation ceremony while the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Femi Odekunle looks on with keen interest.



The best graduating student, Miss Esther delivering the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation valedictory address.



University Council members in a group snapshot during the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony



Cross section of the University Council members during procession at the 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of the University.



## PROF ODIGURE EMERGES NEW COREN REGISTRAR · SIPET Hosts Special Session in Honour of Prof Odigure



Prof. Odigure (middle), Dean, SIPET, Prof. Abubakre (7th from left), Ag. Dean, SEMT, Prof. Sadiku (7th from right) and other staff of SIPET in a group photograph after the event.

**P**rof. Joseph Odigure, Department of Chemical Engineering, School of Infrastructure, Process and Engineering Technology (SIPET), Federal University of Technology, Minna has been appointed as the new Registrar of the Council for Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

Prof. Odigure's appointment was announced during the 160<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Council Meeting of the apex Engineering body held in Enugu, Enugu State.

In a related development, the Board of the School of Infrastructure, Process and Engineering Technology (SIPET) on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 organised a special School Board meeting to commemorate the appointment of Prof. Odigure as the new Registrar of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).

The brief ceremony took place at the School Board Room, Engineering Complex.

Speaking at the event, the Dean, SIPET, Prof. Oladiran Abubakre said the purpose of the event was to honour Prof. Odigure on his appointment as well as to assure him of the School's support and cooperation towards ensuring that he succeeds in his new office.

Prof. Abubakre described Prof. Odigure as a worthy asset to the University, adding that his appointment did not come to many as a surprise based on his antecedents as a dedicated staff of the University.

Also speaking, Engr. Prof. Salawu Sadiku congratulated Prof. Odigure on his appointment while expressing confidence in his ability to transform the fortunes of COREN and urged him to carry everybody along in the discharge of his duties.

Engr. Prof. Sadiku tasked Prof. Odigure to work towards ensuring that the National Universities Commission (NUC) accreditations are in consonance with that of professional bodies, particularly COREN.

On his part, Prof. Kolawole Onifade applauded Prof. Odigure on his appointment, saying that the appointment was an opportunity for him to make an impact at the national stage and urged him to work towards the digitalization of COREN activities for the benefit of its members.

Responding, Prof. Odigure expressed appreciation to the entire staff of the School for honouring him while assuring them that he would not disappoint them. He disclosed that COREN under his leadership would regulate by standards, noting that he would not lose focus in the struggle to revamp COREN for effective service delivery and to reduce the bureaucratic bottle necks inherent in membership registration. He further solicited for their support and cooperation.

Prof. Odigure joined the services of the University in 1991.



# Dr Amina Abubakar Flags Off Science Mobile Teaching Aid

In view of the need to address the problems of science laboratory equipment, the wife of the State Governor, Dr. Amina Abubakar Bello has flagged off the distribution of science mobile teaching equipment and essential learning materials for secondary schools within the state.

The event took place on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at Maryam Babangida Girls Science College, Minna.

Speaking during the flag off, Dr. Bello commended the State government and the Ministry of Education for the laudable project, adding that it was heartwarming, when she found that the funds for the project came solely from the Ministry's savings and Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

Dr. Amina disclosed that public primary schools in the State would soon be renovated by the State government, under the Whole School Approach Development Renovation (WSADR).

Speaking earlier, the Honourable Commissioner for Education, Hajiya Fatima Madugu, commended the Niger State Government for spending more than 3.2 billion naira for the renovation and upgrading of nine secondary schools under its WSADR across the three senatorial zones, including Teacher Professional Development Institute (TPDI), located at Mararaban Dandaudu.

Mrs. Madugu urged the beneficiaries to properly utilize and maintain the items distributed to them.

Giving his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, who

was represented by the Deputy Director, Directorate for Research Innovation and Development and Coordinator, Intellectual Policy Technology and Transfer Office, Prof. Moses Olutoye, said the University has three mandates namely: research, teaching and community service.



**Prof. Olutoye explaining a point to Her Excellency, Dr. Amina Abubakar during the flag off ceremony**

He explained that the teaching equipment has gone through so many stages, including patenting, that no one can get it anywhere, without contacting the inventor.

Prof. Bala noted that the project was part of the research mandate, which would help all the secondary school students to understand science.

He thanked the Niger State Ministry of Education for bringing the product to the community.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Chairman, Niger State House of Assembly Committee on Education, Hon. Bako Alpha, thanked the Hon. Commissioner for proper utilization of IGR in the Ministry to purchase relevant learning materials for schools in the State.

He said that if the same initiative was extended to other ministries, the main organs of government would have less

work to do.

Demonstrating the use of the science mobile teaching aid at the event, the inventor, Engr. Lawal Sadiq, a lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, FUT, Minna explained that the science mobile equipment, aid teaching of science and technology, including mathematics and can also be used at basic and senior levels.

He further revealed that the use of the equipment in teaching helps to increase students interest in science subjects and reduce massive failure in examination.

In his goodwill message, the Chairperson, TPDI, Hajiya Dije Bala, represented by the former Registrar,

FUT, Minna, Mal. Muhammad Dattijo Usman said that they came to identify with the very good course of education.

She applauded the effort of the governor for bringing about a turnaround in the revitalisation of education with the establishment of Niger State Teachers Professional Development Institute, which is the only such body in the country.

During the event, vehicles were also distributed to four girls secondary schools, namely: Maryam Babangida Girls Science College, Minna; Government Girls Science College, Kontagora (Unity); Government Science College, Bida; and Government Secondary School, Tegina.

In his vote of thanks, the permanent Secretary, Ministry of education, Yahaya Garba, commended the governor's wife for gracing the occasion.



# VC Presents Patent Certificate To Researchers



POs in a group photograph with the researchers

**A** team of researchers from the Federal University of Technology, Minna have been granted a Patent for their invention - an artificial foot.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Abdullah iBala, fsssn, presented the patent certificate to the team of researchers who invented an Anthropomorphic Prosthetic Foot recently at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Bala said the patent is granted by the Federal Government and that the research has a great relevance to the lingering foot-related medical challenges. "We are therefore inviting and are open to industry and government stakeholders as well as other partners to join us in the development and commercialization of this invention."

He noted that the University would soon come up with policies that would create conducive environment and sufficient motivation for students creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship as well as staff benefit in the commercialization process through investment in technology start-up equities.

The University, according to him

would continue to commit to research and intellectual property generation as an expression of its core institutional objectives to provide solutions to societal problems and contribute to development, to scale up global visibility and competitiveness and to generate income for research students, staff and the University.

Prof. Bala commended and congratulated the patent grantees Prof. Oladiran Abubakre, Dr. Saka Abdulkareem, Dr. Rasheed Muriana, Dr. James J. A. of the Federal Medical Centre, Bida and Dr. Rasaq Medupin of the Federal Polytechnic, Bida.

Earlier in his welcome address, Director, Directorate for Research, Innovation and Development (DRID)/Coordinator, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO), Prof. Moses Olutoye said the product of the researchers has been patented setting the ball rolling for the next stage of development and commercialization.

Prof. Olutoye noted that the IPTTO of the University will take up the product and source for potential investors, since the product is targeted at some specific people and is useful for members of the

society in the related medical conditions.

In his address, the lead inventor, Engr. Prof. Oladiran Abubakre who is also the Dean, School of Infrastructure Process Engineering and Technology, (SIPET) said the invention focuses on the production of prosthetic foot using readily available materials in Nigeria because Nigeria was blessed with abundant natural rubber resources.

He stated that the Nanotechnology Research Group of the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology of the University produced the first Carbon Nanotube in Nigeria in 2014.

Prof. Abubakre pointed out that the invention will alleviate the challenges faced by the people that suffered from amputation resulting from road traffic accidents, diabetes, leprosy and insurgency.

On his part, the Director, Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Prof. Evans Egwin, said that they are proud to be associated with the innovation, because the research was handed and partly funded by the Centre.



## Gov El-Rufai Commends FUTMinna For Inventing Mobile Lab Equipment



Representative of the VC, Prof. Olutoye (2nd from right) presenting a set of the Mobile Lab equipment to the representative of the Governor at the event while the Director, FUTMin Ventures, Mal. Ashafa (1st from left) and the inventor, Engr. Lawal (1st from right) looked on

The Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Mal. Nasiru El-Rufai has commended the Federal University of Technology, Minna for inventing a mobile laboratory for the teaching of science subjects in Nigeria.

The Governor gave this commendation during the official flag-off ceremony for the training of Kaduna State teachers on the use of Multi-functional mobile Lab held at the Queen Amina College, Kaduna on Saturday, February 9, 2019.

The Governor who was represented by the Hon. Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Alh. Jaffaru Isah said the invention of

the mobile science laboratory by the University was a further confirmation of the institution's prowess as a leading research powerhouse in Nigeria.

Gov. El-Rufai maintained that the invention of the equipment by FUT, Minna would promote the teaching of science and technology subjects across the State and would also encourage more students to be science oriented.

"Today, we are witnessing another laudable project embarked by the State government where, 460 science educational mobile teaching aids have been procured and it will be distributed to three hundred and sixty-one 361 secondary schools to be used for the teaching of science subjects.

Experts in the field of science from FUT, Minna will train our teachers on the use of the instructional materials. The training workshop is taking place simultaneously in five other Centres across the State. These Centres include GSS Panbegua, Barewa College, Zaria, GSS R/Chikun, GC Kagoro and GGSS Zonkwa," the Governor disclosed.

The Governor advised the schools to ensure proper usage and safety of the equipment, adding that Quality Assurance personnel from the State Ministry of Education would visit the schools to assess the level of the equipment usage.

He commended the inventor for producing the mobile laboratory for the teaching of science subjects and urged young scientists to work hard

*cont'd on page 33*



towards improving the innovation since there is quest for new technology devices.

“This government will continue to partner with any inventor to uplift the teaching of science and technology subjects in the State,” he enthused.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn commended Kaduna State Government for procuring the mobile teaching laboratory equipment from the University, saying that the gesture was a proof of the State government's commitment to raise the bar in the teaching of science and technology subjects across secondary schools in the State.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented by the institution's Director, Directorate for Research, Innovation and Development (DRID), Prof. Moses Olutoye said the invention and training of the teachers on the use of the equipment was part of the University's mandate while disclosing that the University has many projects that have been patented and others which are in the process of being patented by the appropriate agency.

Earlier in his address, the Director, FUTMIN Ventures Limited, Mal. Aminu Mohammed Ashafa expressed gratitude to the Governor for finding FUT, Minna worthy for the partnership, stating that the procurement of the equipment by Kaduna State government was a further demonstration of his passion for the development

of education in the State.

“I am particularly happy with the fact that Kaduna State government has keyed into their evolutionary drive in the teaching of science subjects across secondary schools in the State through the adoption of novel science equipment and the recruitment of eminently qualified teachers who are well grounded in science subjects to champion this drive. It is my fervent belief that in no distant time, Kaduna State will be the leading State in the North and Nigeria at large with high percentage of science oriented students at the basic, secondary and tertiary levels who will champion world class inventions,” Mal. Aminu said.

The Director said FUT, Minna has been at the forefront of novel research aimed at proffering solutions to societal challenges, adding that the equipment was just one of the many inventions by the University faculty members aimed at making the teaching of science subjects easier for teachers and for students to comprehend with ease based on its hands-on methodological approach with practical and well tested style of teaching delivery.

“This training is in line with the core mandate of tertiary institutions all over the world which centres on teaching, research and community services. I am glad to inform this gathering that the Federal University of Technology, Minna under the able leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala is desirous and committed to research and development as well as the promotion of harmonious working relationship between the town and gown. That is why we have made our research outputs and discoveries in the areas of agriculture, mining,

construction, ICT, natural herbal medicine, digital policing just to mention but a few available to the society,” the Director stated.

He urged the teachers to pay rapt attention to the resource persons during the training in order to master the art of using the mobile laboratory.

“The manual for this training has been professionally drafted by some of the best brains in the University to make the process of assimilation easy for participants. The training manual can also be referred to as a Do-It-Yourself booklet based on some pictorial and lucid examples used therein. I wish to urge all the participants to pay rapt attention during the period of this training so that you can be better equipped in the usage of this multi-functional mobile teaching equipment,” he noted.

In his remarks, the inventor of the equipment, Engr. Sadiq Lawal of the Department of Mechanical Engineering thanked the University Management for supporting the project right from its early stage, adding that if not for the support given to him by the University, the project would not have become a reality.

He thanked the government of Kaduna State for procuring the equipment and for inviting the University to train its teachers in the usage of the equipment while expressing optimism that the adoption of the equipment in the State would increase students' interest and enrolment in science and technology subjects in the State.

On the importance of the equipment, Engr. Lawal stated that it could be used in the absence of a laboratory due to its multifunctional interface for conducting experiments for all science subjects.



efforts. So, all of us really worked hard for this fund to be released to us. We felt a sense of fulfilment that at last, we were able to get it. So we are very happy.

**Let's talk about research and development. How would you say the University has fared under your stewardship?**

Well, I think we have done well in the last one year, we succeeded in getting the African Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety. So, that guarantees a minimum of at least \$4 million but likely rising to the tune of \$6 million dollars and that will go for about four to five years. So, that is a major achievement. Within this period also, the University got another N9 million grant from the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development for the geological assessment of metallic minerals and mapping within the North Central Zone.

One of our staff also succeeded in getting a \$12 thousand dollars grant from the International Foundation of Science (IFS) just recently. We have a number of our staff that are at the verge of getting TETFund National Research Fund. At least, two of them are going to get a minimum of \$30 million each from the national research fund. They have already been given the letters just that there are some adjustments that need to be done. So at least, two will get that.

There is a team led by Prof. Mrs. Z. D. Osunde that recently got a grant from the Raw Materials Research and Development Council. We have a team from Mechatronics that are also going to get a grant from Nigerian Communications Commission. So, we have a number of grants coming in terms of research and development but then, we have also in the last one year at least applied for five of Research and Development products



Prof. Bala making a point

and many more are coming on board. So, I think we have done well in the areas of research and development. We have done very well.

**Is the host community going to benefit from this research?**

The community is definitely going to benefit from it because when you have these kinds of grants, for example, if you look at the African Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety in terms of equipment, facilities building, training of our staff and students, in terms of the number of Ph.Ds. that are going to be produced, in terms of the number of Master's students that are going to be produced, the University will benefit. The host community will also benefit from it because there will also be other aspects that affect training of locals within the community in terms of what to do to improve on their performance or improve on their economic opportunities. So, things like that, when they come, the University and the host community are beneficiaries.

**Closely related to that, I am sure that this African Centre of Excellence was not the only Centre that the University bid for. I think there were also some proposals by some other research groups. What happened?**

Actually, the University put in sizeable applications. In the end, I think the National Universities Commission (NUC) got a total of around one hundred and fifty seven applications. Six of those applications came from FUT, Minna. After the first stage, two of the applications from FUT, Minna went through, out of the forty applications that were submitted. In the end, at the final evaluation, we got one out of ten applications that were approved by NUC. So, I think it is a plus for the University.

**Sir, we would like to know what your administration has done in the last one year in the areas of staff training and development.**

I think we have gone ahead to continue along the line of our predecessors in terms of staff training and development but I am happy to say that in the last one year, forty eight (48) of our staff were sent out for postgraduate training. Currently, we have about one hundred and eighteen (118) of our staff that are out there on various kinds of postgraduate training. We would have had more but we are beginning to have some problems in terms of accessing funds that are allocated to us by TETFund for staff training and development because of some of the strict conditionality. So, we are working to see how we can open up and increase access to the funds. I think we have close to forty million dollars that is available to us to send our staff on training. So, we will



continue to do that. We have also sent quite a number of people on conferences, as at the last count, about 117 or so for conferences within and outside the country. So, in that respect, we are doing well and there have been quite a number of people that we have sent on short-term training and courses, both academic and non-teaching staff, to address areas of need.

**The non-teaching staff have been agitating that they would like to be part of this overseas training by TETFund. What is your opinion on that?**

Whatever we do in terms of utilization of TETFund is largely guided by the rules that are applied to it. The one that allows for the non-teaching staff to use is from conference attendance fund and we do that. There is a specific fund allocated for the non-teaching staff. The postgraduate training, if you look at it, it is academic staff training and development. It is specifically designated for academic staff training. So, we cannot use that fund for anything other what it was meant for.

**How would you rate your relationship with the various unions on Campus, including the Students Union Government in the last one year that you have piloted the affairs of the University?**

I would say very good. I recall that I assumed office on 3rd of December 2017 which was on a Sunday. So, my first day in office was 4th of December and that was a day that the Joint Action Committee (JAC) was to declare a nationwide strike but as a sign of goodwill to me the local branch here decided to delay declaring their strike to 5th of December, 2017. So, I saw it as an evidence of goodwill that they have shown me then that they were ready to work with me. I think we have worked well with them. We have had two Convocations now that held during strike. The first one held when JAC was on strike and the second one, that of this year was held when the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was on strike. But as you could see, although they did

not fully participate in the convocation, they showed an understanding that yes, the University needs to do this and so there was no disruption and there was some evidence of goodwill towards that. So, I think we have done well for the students. We have always been engaging them to engage us in dialogue instead of protest. With this, I think we do not have any problem with the Students body. The University has been enjoying good industrial relationship with the various unions on Campus. Generally, we have not had any major

problem. There might be challenges but they are things we always address, so there hasn't been a major problem as to cause any disruptions.

**Concerning the relationship with the host community, so far we have not heard any issues recently. Under your stewardship, are there specific things that you are doing differently in the area of community relations?**

Well, I would not say differently, maybe I will just say to review up the relationship. Since my coming in, again, let me refer you back to those Transition Committees, if you recall one of the Committees was Campus Community Relationship. In the past, we have had some frictions; so what is it that we can do in trying to smoothen relationship in trying to have seamless relationship and synergy with the community. The Committee has submitted its report, we saw the report at the retreat and all those elements that have been presented and recommended, we are working at them. We have very close engagement with members of the host community, we will try to involve them in many things we do. Recently, you saw that during the last Convocation ceremony, we even organised a football match among the primary schools within the University's host community to boost engagement and good neighbourliness. We have been holding trainings on Computer skills acquisition for secondary school students in the State. And we will continue to do that. There is a Committee on Trespassing into University land



Prof. Abdullahi Bala during the interview with FUTMinna Newsletter crews, Mustapha Alhassan (r) and Ugboaja Stanley (l)

***'I think we have gone ahead to continue along the line of our predecessors in terms of staff training and development but I am happy to say that in the last one year, 48 of our staff were sent out for postgraduate training'.***



that has Prof. Abubakar Ahmed Sadauki as the Chairman. They have been going from one ward to another, engaging the people on the issue of encroachment into the University land. And we have had fantastic results as a result of those engagements.

**Let's look at the area of academic programme expansion. Sir, before you came on board, some of your predecessors started the issue of School of Health Science. During Prof. Akanji's tenure, he said the Senate has met over the issue. So, what has your administration done in this area in particular?**

The problem is not introduction of new academic programmes. As we are introducing the programmes, we have to be mindful of resources available, both human resources and physical resources. You would have seen that a number of departments are being created and each time you create a department, for example, you need offices for the Head of Department, for the Secretary and then you need to have secretaries and others. So, we are mindful of this while we want to move quickly, we are also mindful of the fact that for us to commit ourselves, we must have the resources. The School of Health Sciences to me, I think is still on board, we just created the Department of Geophysics, which will be one of those departments. If you are going to create a School of Health Sciences and I believe that it is something that will happen. I believe so, that it will happen. What we are looking for is that we have the facilities and the personnel because there is no point in creating a programme that you do not have personnel or required facilities to be able to run it. As I told you, I want to see that we have a Department of Mining Engineering but there are other proposals. There is a proposal for the establishment of Oil and Gas Department, Welding Engineering and there are many others that are coming. We will work on them gradually. Establishment of new programmes will continue. When the time is right, we will create a School in that respect, so, it is still on board.

**In the last two years, some department have not been able to admit new students based on the issue of Federal Ministry of Education asking the University to adhere to its mandate. How has the University gone in letting them know that these programmes are integrated to what we are doing here Sir?**

We are working very hard, in fact, just last week me and the Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology,



*The VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala*

Owerri met with the Executive Secretary, NUC and I believe by the end of this year, that issue will be resolved, that I know. We are working very hard on it. Meanwhile, some of the programmes are actually trying to reinvent themselves. You know because sometimes, when you look at it there is a misperception on what it is all about. So, we have looked at the curriculum of the programmes affected. We looked at like Information and Media Technology for example, we decided okay, if they have any problem we are going to split the programme into two. We will have Information Technology Department and Digital Media Technology Department. These are very well within the mandate of the University. So, we are looking at it, it will be resolved in the next few months by God's grace.

**Sir, is there any other thing that you would like to tell us?**

Well, just to say that the University is doing well. Thanks to the cooperation of both staff and students and also the kind of support we are getting from the Governing Council. This present Council has been the most active and facilitating Council we have had in recent times. They have given us quite a chunk of not only their support but they have gone out there in also trying to facilitate some projects and funds to the University. I believe we are doing well and I pray and hope that we will continue along this trajectory.



## PROF IYAKA DELIVERS INAUGURAL LECTURE

### • Offers Scholarships, Endowment To Chemistry Students

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka took the centre stage when he delivered the 66<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University.

However, in addition to getting to know the don's contributions to knowledge, the audience got to witness his sense of giving back to society.

The capacity-filled Caverton Lecture Theatre, venue of the lecture at the Gidan Kwano Campus, erupted in applause, when Iyaka who is a professor of Analytical Chemistry, in what will go down as the first of its kind in the University, announced that he is instituting a scholarship, with effect from the end of the 2017/2018, for the best 100 Level student of Niger State origin in Chemistry Department.

Prof. Iyaka who disclosed that the scholarship is his own way of giving back to the state, having benefitted from the state government scholarships during his secondary and university education, assured that he would fund the scholarship throughout his life time.

The scholarship will cover school fees of the beneficiary up to final year, a situation that would eventually amount to having four beneficiaries per session.

He also announced the endowment of a prize for the best overall graduating student of the

Department of Chemistry. The endowment, worth N500 thousand in perpetuity, is in honour of his father, late Alh. Muhammad Ibrahim Iyaka.

In the lecture titled: "The Fascinating Elements of Soils: Are You Seeing What I Am Seeing?," Prof. Iyaka disclosed that his research was centred on urban surface soils due to his interest in anthropogenic input of

products worthy of universal patent, the DVC recommended the establishment of standard laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and well trained technologists in each geopolitical zone.

To achieve an environmentally safe nation, he stressed the need for constant monitoring on levels of



*Prof. Iyaka delivering his Inaugural Lecture*

trace metals into soils, and their possible effects on plants, animals and humans through the food chain.

He submitted that lecturers have the onus to make their institutions serve the direct needs of society instead of being mere citadels of abstract learning.

Frowning at the ambiguity surrounding the training of technologists in the country, which he said has in turn led to the problems of inefficiency and equity, he called for a re-definition of their role and significance.

For the country to have research

heavy metals in urban soils, with a view to assessing their potential risks to life and environment.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof, Abdullahi Bala fsssn thanked dignitaries from different parts of the country for attending the lecture.

Three former Vice-Chancellors of FUT, Minna – Professors Muhammad Daniyan OFR, Muhammed Salihu Audu FMAN and Musbau Adewumi Akanji FAS amongst many other eminent personalities attended the Inaugural Lecture.



# Prof Arimoro Presents 67<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture

A University don from the Department of Animal Biology, School of Life Sciences, Prof. Francis Ofurum Arimoro has stated that the aquatic biodiversity is the variety of life and the ecosystems that make up the freshwater, tidal and marine regions of the world.

He made this known when he delivered the 67<sup>th</sup> Inaugural lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna titled: *Unravelling the Mysteries of Aquatic Biodiversity: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly* held recently at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

Sustaining aquatic biodiversity, he said, has tremendous benefits to humans as each aquatic species has an important role in making our lives easier, healthier and more productive.

“Sustaining biodiversity is essential to the health of our environment and to the quality of human life. We depend on many aquatic plants and animals, and their ecological functions for our survival. he stated.

On the anthropogenic impact on the Nigerian aquatic ecosystem, Prof. Arimoro who is the Head, Department of Animal Biology said the biodiversity of the Nigerian aquatic ecosystem is increasingly being destroyed or depleted by persistent threat of aquatic pollution resulting from intense human activities such as

indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticide in agriculture, industrialisation and urbanisation.

He further stated that pressure due to rapid population growth and mismanagement of natural aquatic resources like during construction of dams, roads and bridges brought about negative environmental and social impacts that cannot be ignored.



Prof. Arimoro presenting his lecture

On his contribution to knowledge, the erudite professor of Animal Biology said his work on Taxonomic studies has revealed the identification of Ephemeroptera and indeed other macro invertebrates in Nigeria before 2008 was non-existence although certain genera and species were described by few taxonomists.

He said through Helen James from Albany Museum in South Africa he got support from the National Research Foundation to do taxonomic identifications and training in the museum. He also collaborated with Helen James to produce a preliminary pictorial guide for the identification of freshwater invertebrates of Delta state

in Nigeria.

The lecturer who has served as consultant to assess the environmental impact of several projects, maintained in his conclusion that aquatic biodiversity is extremely threatened and expressed the need to raise public awareness on the threat to freshwater species.

And that a single freshwater bivalve may filter more than seven litres of water a day – without keystone species such as these maintained in river systems the water would not be as pure. “Aquatic species provide important ecosystem services.” He stated.

He recommended that the University urgently requires a museum of history where aquatic specimens would be preserved for posterity and that the University can serve as the Centre for the North Central region. The Head of Department also said that the University requires a Biological garden.

Speaking after the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullah Bala, fsssn, acknowledged dignitaries present at the event, and described the event as perfect example of town and gown mix. He commended the lecturer for his brilliant presentation and urged others who are yet to present their inaugural lecture to do.



# Make Post-Occupancy Evaluation Compulsory

- Prof Zubairu



Prof. Zubairu delivering her lecture

The first female Professor of Architecture in the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Stella Zubairu has called for the enactment of laws to make Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POEs) of buildings compulsory.

Prof. Zubairu who is the Acting Dean, School of Environmental Technology, made this call yesterday when she delivered the 68<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

In the lecture titled: *Post-Occupancy Evaluation: A Necessary Tool for Architects, Facility Managers and other Professionals in the Building Industry*, she explained that such laws would help in assessing the impact and effectiveness of building spaces, structure and services on the end users, leading to better building

performance.

Prof. Zubairu defined POE as systematic evaluation of opinions about buildings in use from the perspective of people who use them, adding that it is intended to compare systematically and vigorously, the actual performance of completed and occupied buildings with explicitly stated performance objectives.

She disclosed that studies have revealed that if users of public buildings are consulted at the initial design stage, better and more user-friendly designs will be produced. She, therefore, urged legislators to enact a law that will make it mandatory for opinions of potential users to be sought before final decisions on designs of public buildings are made.

Prof. Zubairu enjoined building

professionals to always be mindful of the fact that they are designing for the comfort and welfare of human beings.

As part of her contribution to knowledge, Prof. Zubairu has carried out POEs on students' hostels in FUT, Minna, hotels and more than two dozens of factories in Minna.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, thanked Prof. Zubairu for delivering the lecture. He described her as a woman who has paid her dues.

Mrs. Zubairu is the only female to have held the post of Dean, Postgraduate School in the University, a position to which she held from 2011 to 2014. She is also the second woman to become a Professor of Architecture in Nigeria.

Among the dignitaries at the well-attended lecture was a former Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Hamman Tukur Sa'ad.



# PROF SHITTU TASKS FG ON ADEQUATE FUNDING OF EDUCATION



*Prof. Okunade delivering his lecture*

**P**rof. Kelani Okunade Shittu has called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to adequately fund education in order to become a reading nation.

The Professor of English made this call on Thursday, November 1, 2018 while delivering the 69th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

In the lecture titled: “Reading Nations Are Leading Nations: Whither Nigeria.” Prof. Shittu disclosed that Nigeria is no where to be found on the league of reading nations, a situation he attributed to its poor reading culture.

He called on government at all levels and philanthropists to massively

fund education through the provision of well equipped libraries, educational facilities, book development centres, workshops to equip teachers at all levels and inclusive of advocacy on reading in school curriculum.

The don stated that government should place emphasis on primary education because it is the foundation of formal education and where the foundation of life long reading culture is laid. He, However, stressed the need for primary school teachers in particular to be well grounded in the methodology of teaching pupils how to read.

The lecturer who urged parents to provide reading materials for their children, re-echoed that they have a major role to play in inculcating

reading culture in them.

According to him, with the joint efforts of the school, family, libraries, publishers, booksellers, mass media and government, the desire to improve reading habit in children and youth will be created which will enable Nigeria to engage in global competitiveness and join the league of leading nations.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, congratulated the lecturer for his beautiful presentation, adding that the message from the lecture was for all in their different ways to promote reading culture in their families and communities, which will go a long way in making them enlightened.



# Prof Tsado Delivers 70th Inaugural Lecture

**P**rof. Eli Tsado of the Department of Crop Production has stated that reducing post-harvest losses is one of the key measures to achieving food security and poverty alleviation.

Prof. Tsado said this when he presented the 70th Inaugural Lecture of the University, titled: **The End of Crop Storage Is The Beginning Of New Products**, on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at the Carverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

He noted that it is essential that crops to be stored for future use either for consumption or planting must be cared for right from the farm and be stored in such a way that its quality does not deteriorate. Farm produce well preserved, he said, will ensure the beginning of healthy and consumable, health improving new products.

The Professor of Crop Production listed temperature control, relative humidity control, air circulation, drying fruits, making flour from cassava/yam tubers and maintenance of space between containers for adequate ventilation as proper storage practices.

On his contribution to solving problems associated with improving marketing and safety of crop storage through research, Prof Tsado disclosed that he discovered that microbial loads, which are agents of deterioration, travel from farm and markets to consumers' tables.

His research, he pointed out, looked into using shea butter in slowing down deterioration especially in areas where electrical power supply is poor, for refrigeration and recommended shea butter coating such that food gets to the table in healthy form.

He added that the urban swing away from the consumption of

traditional starchy staples such as yam and cassava towards processed and convenient products such as eba (Garri) from cassava, couscous and fried plantain chips sold in cities as snacks, increases food security.

The don further stated that the private sector lacks commitment to postharvest technologies and improvement of postharvest handling systems and given the science-based nature of postharvest technologies, support from both the private sector and government is required for its development.

He called on the private sector to support postharvest research and development just as he tasked government to promote and encourage private investment in postharvest research and development which complements public investments for enhancing productivity.

His other recommendations are: Government should discourage the use of Calcium Carbide and Acetylene in the ripening of fruits by promulgating a law to discourage farmers from its use.

Government should support and strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and encourage cooperative marketing of those crops that are produced on small farms. Through the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery product standards, a scheme or system of product standard enforcement, accreditation and inspection should be implemented.

Government support, he said, is also required for the improvement of infrastructure such as farm to market roads, cold chain system, trading/collection centres and postharvest facilities so as to enhance efficiency in the distribution system hence assuring consistency of fresh produce supplies to larger areas of the country.

He opined that the dissemination of research findings should be encouraged between researchers, extension workers and farmers. More market research needed for food technology development, with particular reference to urban consumers perceptions, attitudes, preferences wants, means and behaviours regarding food.

In his remark, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, *fssn*, expressed delight with the presentation of the Inaugural Lecture and acknowledged dignitaries for attending.



Prof. Tsado delivering his lecture



# Show Concern For The Environment

- Prof Nsofor



Prof. Nsofor delivering his lecture

The need to show concern for the environment in order to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change has been emphasized.

Prof. Godwin Nsofor, made this known while delivering the 71st inaugural lecture of the Federal University of Technology Minna, titled: "Climate Change, Paradoxes and Mapping, The tragedy of the commons" on Thursday, March 28 2019, at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The don disclosed that climate change is real and the last five years have been the hottest on record. He further said the world has recorded the highest amount of carbondioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration in the atmosphere and there is the urgent need to provide answers to the climate change

paradoxes.

He advised on the need for everybody to be involved and sensitized as they are the major asset in halting, reversing or mitigating environmental degradation and climate change.

Prof Nsofor, a Professor of Cartography and Environmental Resources Management, described environment as the ultimate resource and last hope for man's survival, which is infinite and publicly owned with freedom of access.

According to him, tragedy of the commons occurs because the environment is degraded or destroyed due to non-challant attitude, greed and selfishness of individuals.

The don revealed that it is said that by the year 2050 humans may no longer

be alive, stressing the need for all hands to be on deck to avoid certain catastrophe coming

He advocated for planting of trees by Nigerians as this can prevent erosion and provide oxygen for us to enjoy. He said there is need for the government to provide resources that people will use to implement environmental friendly systems.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Abdulahi Bala, fsssn, acknowledged the presence of dignitaries. He appreciated the lecturer for his presentation, adding that as an institution logistics will be looked into to have an annual tree planting campaign as a contribution to preserving the environment.





*Prof. Abdullahi Bala presenting a signed copy of the MoU to Mrs. Beatrice*

**T**he Federal University of Technology, Minna and German Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) are to partner in the areas of entrepreneurship, business training and coaching for the implementation of start-up business.

This was made known during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties at the Entrepreneurship Centre, Main Campus recently.

Speaking during the brief ceremony, the team leader, Mrs Tschinkel who spoke on behalf of the lead trainer, Edwardo Camela, said the MoU is about implementing the training and coaching programme for people who have a business idea but do not know how to start their business. The MoU, she added, also involves developing a strategy for the Entrepreneurship Centre of the University and linking it up with e-Learning.

She said they want to have a self-

learning course where anybody on campus and also in general can go through the five modules that have been developed, adding that there is going to be a start-up loop, where part of the training will be done online and the other part will be face to face on the campus.

She added that apart from the students, the University will also look at entrepreneurs from the community around the campus.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Abdullahi Bala, *fsssn*, expressed excitement with the MoU and appreciated GIZ for their support all these years.

He added that the Centre was not originally planned for but was imposed on the University by the government, but when the Centre came and was provided with funds for operation, the Management felt the need for GIZ to come in and help.

Prof. Bala said GIZ is here to give guidance as to what to do and beyond the e-Learning, the idea of the start-up came. He added that FUTMinna has

a lot of enterprising students and staff and the Management is grateful that GIZ is coming at the right time.

Also speaking at the event, Director, Entrepreneurship Centre, Engr. Prof. Zinash Osunde said, the start-up loop training is for people who want to start business. The training, she said was not for skills acquisition but to make them to be entrepreneurs.

She said the students will pass through training and coaching until they are able to start businesses. The student are the target audience and as much as possible they will be using the knowledge they already acquire, like their final year project and every other thing they have learnt, she explained.

Prof. Osunde said the next step is to sign the first start-up loop by putting advert online and in the media, calling student, graduates of FUTMinna that are unemployed to apply.

She said that, it is going to be a one-on-one intensive training and the registration will be on the University website.



## FUTMinna, HUKPoly, Katsina Sign Mou

The Federal University of Technology, Minna and Hussan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina State are to partner in the areas of joint research collaboration and training of manpower in science and technology.

This was made known during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions at the VC's Conference Room, Main Campus recently.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fssn, while speaking during the brief ceremony, commended the Management of Hussan Usman Katsina Polytechnic for the bold steps taken, saying that FUT, Minna was established 35 years ago in furtherance of the federal government desire for self-reliance in science and technology for the country.

"The issue of technology and promotion of technology is a core mandate of the University and one cannot promote technology without building capacity in the area of technology, especially technical education, because of the requisite man-power needed to be able to push technology right from the grassroots up to the tertiary level," the VC enthused.

Prof. Bala disclosed that the University has been very much involved in collaborations and affiliations with many polytechnics and colleges of education. He noted that the desire is to see the institution

forge greater and closer collaborations especially with polytechnics and colleges of education within the Northern part of the country because that is where the requisite manpower is largely lacking.

Prof. Bala expressed excitement

B.Tech. programme.

He said that with the affiliation, some burden would be reduced from students and their parents because it cost much to undergo an education programme. He applauded the University Management for giving the Polytechnic the opportunity to



The VC, Prof. Bala (left) presenting a signed copy of the MOU to the Rector, Dr. Kurti

with the MoU, adding that Management is willing to help and would bend over backwards to it's desire. By doing so, the University is also improving access to education and people around Katsina State do not need to go far to acquire education, he added.

Earlier in his address, the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Ibrahim Mudi Kurti expressed gratitude and thanked the University Management for its understanding in finalising the issues concerning the affiliation and hoped that the signing of the MoU would mark a milestone in the history of the polytechnic as it commences the

commence a B.Tech. programme.

The MoU between the two institutions covers the introduction of B.Tech. programmes in Automobile Technology, Building Technology, Woodwork Technology, Electronical/Electronics Technology, Metalwork Technology, Biology Education, Chemistry Education and Mathematics Education.

Other aspects of the MoU are joint research collaboration, academic staff exchange on sabbatical and study visit, exchange of students at undergraduate level, postgraduate training of staff, joint organization of conferences/workshops.



# Defence Headquarters Collaborates with FUTMinna

In order to enhance educational training and research in the area of engineering and technology development, the Federal University of Technology, Minna and the Defence Research and Development Bureau (DRDB) under the Ministry of Defence, Abuja have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, while speaking during the signing at the VC'S Conference Room, Main Campus commended the Defence Research and Development Bureau for their interest to collaborate with the university to promote scientific and Technological development.

He said FUT, Minna is a University with a good repository of intellectuals that are well grounded in research and development as well and is always ready to partner with relevant agencies.

The VC further disclosed that the university was founded on the

nation's aspiration to effect the much desired self reliance on science and technology and the military is supposed to be a major end-user of the technology the University is developing. "When the military is seen developing interest in these research activities, we are always happy," he said.

He assured of Management's support towards the success of the MOU.

Receiving the copy of the signed MOU on behalf of the Director General, Air Vice Marshal Jomo Osahor, the Director, Test and Evaluation DRBD, Maj. Gen. Moses Uzoh, expressed the DG's readiness to partner with the University in the area of academic and scholarly cooperative linkages and collaborative research.

He congratulated the University for being among the 11 institutions that recently won research grants of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel

Development.

Speaking earlier, the Director, Directorate of Collaboration Affiliation and Linkages, Prof. Emmanuel Udensi (now DVC Admin) prayed that the Defence Headquarters through the DRDB will put the MoU into good effect.

The agreement is for an initial period of five years covering amongst others, robotic mechatronics, image processing, object tracking and detection, information and communication technology, fuel treatment, radar and radar control.

Other areas of the co-operation are: exchange of staff for short, medium or long period, which will enhance and guarantee further scientific and scholarly cooperation in teaching and research, organisation of joint conferences, seminars, symposia, special short term academic programmes, vacation, cultural, tourism programmes, amongst others.



VC, Prof. Bala (M), representative of the DG, Maj. Gen. Moses (6th from right), POs and others in a group photograph



## Natural Medicine Development: FUTMinna, Agency Renew MOU

The Federal University of Technology, Minna and the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA) on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in an effort to promote cooperation in staff training, research and product development.

In his remarks at the event which took place at the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Abuja, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, described the agreement as a sign of good things to come, adding that re-signing the document was an opportunity to solidify the relationship between both institutions.

Prof. Bala stressed the need to review the progress that has so far been made under the first MOU signed in 2011 that saw NNMDA establishing of a medicinal farm in the University. He said the farm is a veritable opportunity to move the relationship forward.

Pointing out that much is being said about natural medicine in the society without the corresponding will to go the extra mile about it, he expressed commitment to the success of the collaboration.

In his remarks, the Director General of NNMDA, Dr. Samuel Etatuvie said the Agency holds FUT, Minna in high esteem. He commended the University for sustaining interest in the collaboration, noting that a lot of benefits would accrue to both parties if they stick faithfully to the MOU.

Dr. Etatuvie disclosed that approval had been given for the resuscitation

of the Agency's College of Natural Medicine Technology and expressed hope to collaborate with the University in that regard.

He assured that the Agency intends to resume work soon at the demonstration farm in the University, adding that the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology was keen on product development.

Speaking earlier, Dean, School of Life Sciences, Prof. Emmanuel Ogbadoyi, disclosed that the collaboration between FUT, Minna and the Agency was conceived with the thinking that such would do a lot of good for the country.

He recalled that under the previous agreement, the University had allocated a 10-hectare land for the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants at the Gidan Kwano campus, while NNMDA funded a study of the soil type, which was undertaken by the Department of Soil Science and Land Management in the University, to determine which plants would be suitable there.

Prof. Ogbadoyi expressed hope that with the renewal of the MOU, more would be done in actualising the terms of the agreement, especially the training and product development components.

The MOU includes research collaboration in making natural products, natural medicine, traditional medicine, science and engineering as well as agricultural practices. It also covers joint programme development and exchange of technical visits.

Both parties are also to work together in the aspects of novel drugs, diagnostics, biotechnology, nanotechnology in medicine, bioinformatics and synthetic biology, among other things.

Others on the University's delegation were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Udensi; Director, Research, Innovation and Development, Prof. Hussaini Makun; Deputy Director, Legal Services, Mrs. Evelyn Makun and Deputy Director, Collaboration, Affiliation and Linkages, Dr. Haruna Ibrahim.



VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (m) and DG, NNMDA, Dr. Samuel Etatuvie (4th from right) pose for a group photograph with other officials and Principal Officers of the University after signing the MoU



## VC HARPS ON SYNERGY BETWEEN FUTMINNA, NIGER STATE • As FUT, Minna Signs MoU With Urban Shelter Ltd



VC, Prof. Bala (L), MD, Urban Shelter, Mal. Aliyu (R) exchanging copies of the signed MoU

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology Minna, Prof Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, has called on Nigerlites to invest in the institution

The Vice-Chancellor made this known recently at the Main Campus, Gidan Kwano while signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd, Abuja.

Speaking during the signing, the VC said the essence of having a Federal University in our community is for us to own it because it is the interest of the community that the university should be seen to be serving, adding that there is a very close engagement between the University and that of community therefore leaders in the state in his opinion are to find out how FUTMinna, which has all kinds of expertise can help the community.

Prof. Bala congratulated the Chairman of Urban Shelter, Mallam Ibrahim Aliyu for his commitment to education and the University, pointing out that they are the first

indigenous developers in FUTMinna and about the only personality from Niger State that deemed it fit to donate an edifice on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis to the University some years back, adding that for this reason, it came natural to accept their proposal to build hostel for the University, not just because they are a leading company in estate development.

The helmsman expressed Managements appreciation to Urban Shelter for the honour accorded the University, adding that he has no doubt it will be successful.

He noted that the Chairman of Urban Shelter is a son of the soil and he is the only one that has found it worthy to look at the University as a partner and hopes that the gesture will show other Nigerlites that they can come and partner and invest in the University.

He revealed that Urban Shelter has also given a commitment to build a

guest house later. The VC appreciated Urban Shelter for their gradual investment in infrastructure that would make the University to become a living environment not just for lectures.

The VC pointed out that student accommodation has been a concern as the University has over 22 thousand students but has provision for less than five thousand bed spaces, adding that he aspires to have as much as 75% of students on campus which he said will expose the students to the life of students on campus

and also avail the opportunity for mentorship of the students. He said a situation where students will live off campus out of choice not out of necessity.

In his remark, the MD, Urban Shelter Infrastructure Ltd, Rilwan Salihu Aliyu who represented the Chairman disclosed that the Chairman is passionate in helping to restore every aspect of education and both of them being alumni of the University know the importance of hostels, so they see working for the FUT as home coming.

He assured Management of a thorough job, adding that they will ensure the edifice is not just beautiful but functional.

Mal. Aliyu explained that they plan to build four clusters of hostels containing three blocks of 448 unit each, 1344 in a cluster, totaling 5376 and intend to start the 1st cluster in December.

The hostels are to accommodate a maximum of eight students per room.



## CHANCELLOR'S CUP 2019

### • Pro-Chancellor Congratulates FUTMinna Staff School



**R -L:** The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Odekunle presenting trophy to the team captain, FUT, Minna Staff School

**T**he Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Femi Odekunle has congratulated FUT, Minna Staff Primary School for winning the maiden edition of His Eminence, Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) Kids Football Championship.

The University Staff School pupils defeated Dr. Yahaya Bawa Bosso Primary School 2-1 in the keenly contested final played at the University Sports Complex, Gidan Kwano.

Prof. Odekunle commended the University Staff School players for making the University proud by winning the Championship, adding that they are worthy champions of the trophy courtesy of their scintillating brand of football as well as adherence to the rules and regulations of the Championship.

The Pro-Chancellor applauded the University Management for organizing the Championship for primary schools within Minna metropolis while stating that the Championship has exposed some hidden talents in the various schools that participated in the Competition and urged other organizations to invest in school sports.

The Chairman disclosed that sports have been adjudged to be a potent tool to promote peaceful co-existence among nations and communities, noting that effective adoption of sports can lead to development of any

nation.

“I am happy that the University is using sports to boost community relations for the good of the society. This Championship has further shown that FUT, Minna is committed to the development of its host community”, the Pro-Chancellor disclosed.

He thanked all the 16 schools for participating in the Championship while assuring them that the next edition of the Championship would be better than this year's edition.

Speaking before presenting medals to the victorious players, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala FSSSN, expressed delight with the performance of all the schools that participated in the Championship while disclosing that Olympics is not about winning but participation.

The VC advised the losing teams to prepare well for the next edition and not to be discouraged with their performance, noting that the Championship had further created an avenue for pupils to socialize as well as to meet new friends.

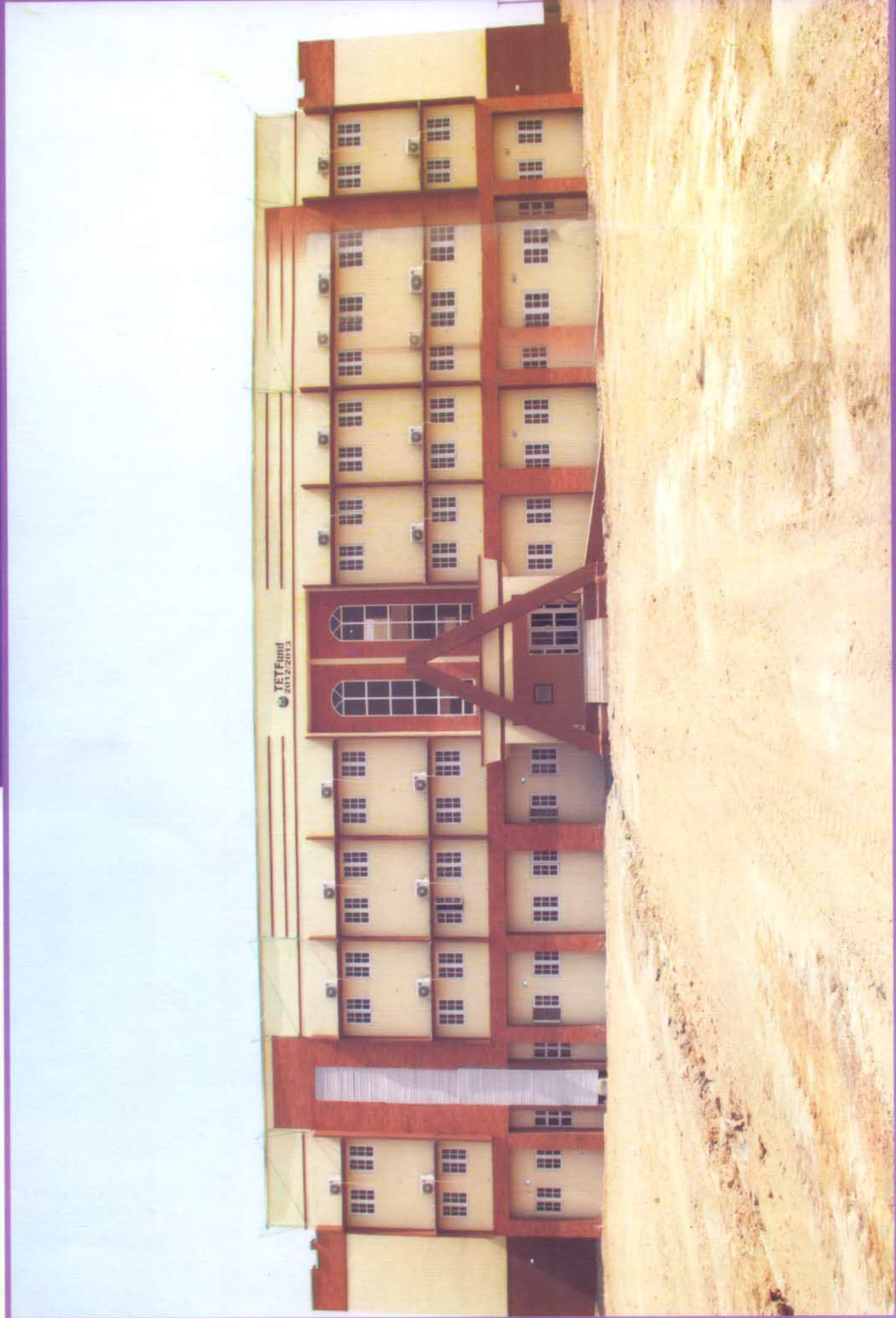
Prof. Bala said the Championship was part of the University's corporate social responsibility aimed at promoting peaceful co-existence between the institution and its host community as well as to discover raw talents among the primary school pupils.

The Championship was part of activities that heralded the 36<sup>th</sup> Founders' Day and 28<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the institution.









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