



FUTMINNA *Newsletter*

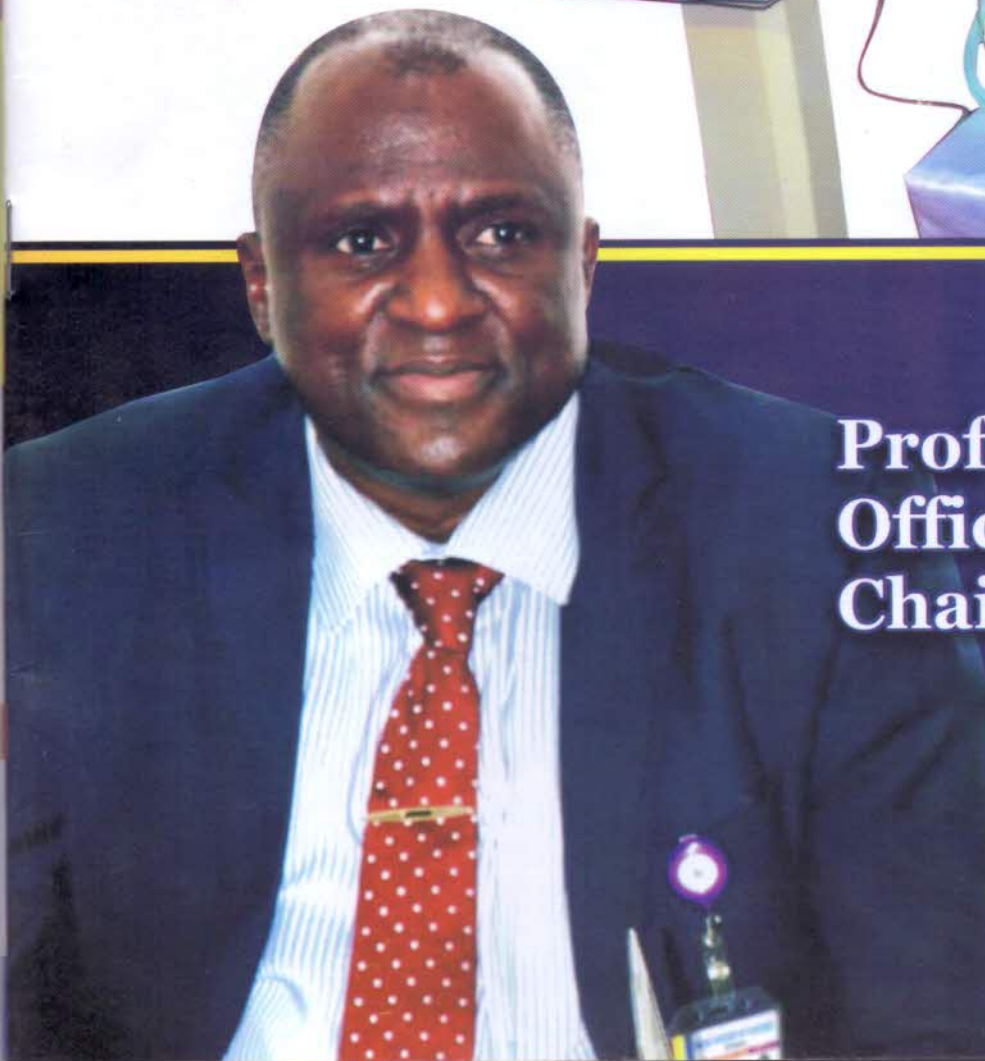
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Covid-19: NAF, FUTMinna Develop Ventilators



**Prof Bala Assumes
Office as AWAU
Chairman**



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FUTMinna newsletter is the quarterly publication of the Federal University of Technology, Minna Issued by the information and publication Unit, office of the Vice-Chancellor, for the readership of staff, Students and the general public.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Calm Down: FUTMinna Is Making Tremendous Progress

Trust you are all keeping safe? I'm excited to bring to your reading pleasure yet another classic edition of the FUTMinna Newsletter. This edition is fantastically packaged to bring you up to speed with happenings in the University, especially during the lockdown period occasioned by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols, the University was never on break administratively during the lockdown because many milestones were recorded. Top on the list was the development of locally made ventilators by the Nigerian Airforce and FUTMinna. This story leads in this edition. This milestone is a clear demonstration of the University's rarefied position among Nigerian universities in terms of Research and Development (R & D).

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Our centre spread featured some exciting pictures taken during the 37th Founders' Day and 29th Convocation Ceremony of the University. We have also dedicated some pages in this edition to spotlight some of our professors who joined the enviable club of scholars who have delivered their inaugural lectures.

Equally important, we bring you details of the multi-billion naira deal signed by FUTMinna and Shelter Suites & Hotel for the construction of a 50-room hotel at the Gidan Kwano Campus. This MoU is one among many others recently signed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Calm down, we've got the full story of the MoU signing ceremony held in Abuja for you and so much more in this edition for your reading pleasure.

The content of this magazine can be referred to as "a complete package" based on the retinue of stories selected for this edition. It is definitely a pearl worth savouring at a very good price. Enjoy!

#Stayhome
#Staysafe



■ Lydia Legbo

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President Buhari Applauds Management As FUTMinna Graduates 4,502



The representative of the President, Hon. Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim delivering the Visitor's address.

President Muhammadu Buhari has commended the Management, staff and students of the Federal University of Technology, Minna for effectively playing their roles which has led to the momentous celebration of the 29th Convocation Ceremony of the University.

The President gave this commendation during the celebration of the 37th Founders' Day and 29th Convocation ceremony of the University held at the Dr. Suleimanu Kumo Convocation Square, Main Campus.

The President who was represented by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) FNCS, FBCS, FIIM, saluted the graduands for their commitment and resilience which has resulted to attainment of the landmark achievement in their lives.

He stated that he is aware that FUT, Minna has continued to pursue with remarkable tenacity the spirit of driving technological innovations for the benefit of the country and humanity at large.

The President further stressed that the rating of FUT, Minna among universities has consistently been impressive, as such, he encouraged the Management of the University not to relent in their pursuit of excellence in the university sphere of knowledge, innovations and specialisation.

He added that the Federal Government is mindful of the cardinal roles of science and technology in national development, which informed the decision to review admission ratio in favour of science and technology courses in tertiary institutions.

Delivering his speech earlier, the Chancellor of the University, His

Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick, said he was excited because the event was a reflection of how far the University has come in the training of manpower needed to transform the fortunes of the country for good. He added that in its 37 years of existence, the University has not deviated from its stated vision and mission.

The Chancellor further applauded all the past Vice-Chancellors for sustaining the University's impeccable academic culture of excellence which has resulted in the institution being the best specialized University in the country and the 4th best in Nigeria based on graduate employability index.

On his part, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle appreciated all the stakeholders for their keen interests in the progress, peace and security of the University.

He noted that this is his 2nd year of working with a youthful, knowledgeable

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Cross section of Graduands

committed, hardworking and forthright Vice-Chancellor. He reiterated that the Governing Council is satisfied with the VC's leadership prowess as he works to further enhance the already enviable status of the University. The Pro-Chancellor maintained that the Governing Council has continued with its pursuit of policies and positions that guarantees and encourage development of staff and students to enhance knowledge generation and dissemination.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, reaffirmed that the University has continued to maintain its eminent position as leading specialized University and has maintained its position among the top ten in Nigeria and top one hundred African universities.

Prof. Bala emphasized that staff welfare has continued to be his top priority,

adding that, the University has maintained promptness in staff promotion, and training as a total of 351 staff were promoted to various ranks in the year 2019.

On research, innovations, creativity and development, the VC assured that the profile of the University has been rising steadily and it has been drawing accolades from far and near.

According to him, a total of 4,502 students graduated among which 3,597 bagged first degrees, these include 139 from affiliating institutions that include Federal Colleges of Education- Technical Potiskum and Akoka and Kaduna Polytechnic, 182 Postgraduate diploma, 629 Master's 94 Doctorate degrees.

On the order of merit, the Vice-Chancellor, gave the breakdown of the classes of degree for the 2018/2019 academic session who announced

Ogunfolaji Yusuf Oluwasegun of the Department of Civil Engineering, School of Infrastructural and Process Engineering Technology (SIPET) as the overall best graduating student with a CGPA of 4.82 as a graduands 57 First class, 926 Second Class upper, 1733 Second class lower, 836 Third class, and 45 pass degrees.

He concluded by appreciating the various personalities that made the occasion a possibility and added glamour to the event. He also advised the graduands to go into the world with confidence knowing that they had received the best training any university could offer.

Mr. Ogunfolaji Yusuf Oluwasegun, the best graduating student of the 2018/2019, recalled that his past years in the institution had not been easy, but for the grace of God. He advised his colleagues to keep the flag of the University flying and be trail blazers wherever they find themselves.

Academia Key To Digital Economy - Minister



Hon. Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim delivering the 29th Convocation Lecture

The Honorable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), FNCS, FBCS, FIIM, has asserted that the academia has a key role to play in the development of Nigerian digital economy.

Dr. Ibrahim made the assertion when he presented the 29th Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus titled: "Datafication of Society: Economic and Security Issues in producing and Using Public and Private Data in Nigeria".

The Minister described a digital economy as one that utilizes digitized information and knowledge as key inputs to the economy, adding that most nations are prioritizing development of digital economies because they have realized the multiplier effects it has on all other sectors of the economy.

He said the thrust of the lecture was to draw attention to the irrefutable fact that a digital economy is the single most important driver of innovation, competitiveness and growth for any

economy.

The convocation lecturer noted that Nigeria depended on oil for decades but as we move into an era where wealth is being measured by digital resources, we must diversify and move to a knowledge based economy by the use of ICT to be able to take care of our Technological challenges adding that the key ingredient for powering a digital economy is data which drives the growth of the traditional economy.

Dr. Ibrahim disclosed that Nigeria, is developing and implementing policies, standards, guidelines and frameworks that will enable citizens enjoy the prospects of datafication. According to him, Nigeria has keyed into the digital economy with the launch of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) by President MuhammaduBuhari, GCFR on November 28, 2019.

The Minister who highlighted the differences between public and private data, economic and security issues in producing and using public and private data in Nigeria noted that there are

laws and policies in Nigeria that are supporting the protection of our personal data like the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) and sections 37 of the Nigerian constitution.

He used the occasion to call on the academia not to be more inclined to theory but focus on skills and establish ICT hubs to discover young talents who will solve the varying challenges of Nigeria. He urged the academia to bridge the gap between it and a digital economy industry in order to develop.

In his remarks, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the University, Prof. Femi Odekunle appreciated the Minister for accepting to deliver the lecture, adding that FUT, Minna being the leading specialized university in Nigeria, the lecture was very relevant to the audience.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, FSSN, thanked the Minister for honouring the invitation as the guest lecturer in spite of his busy schedule and said his presence was an honour that has added glamour to the occasion.

VC'S AWARDS: STUDENTS GET CASH, HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION



The VC, Prof. Bala presenting award to one of the awardees

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has honoured students who excelled in their studies from various departments of the University. The students got the awards during the maiden edition of the Founders' Day VC's Students Award Ceremony held at the University Auditorium, Main Campus recently.

The Vice-Chancellor who expressed pleasure towards the maiden edition of the award ceremony said the purpose of the award was to recognise, appreciate and celebrate students who have done exceptionally well, instead of waiting for the students to get to the end of their programmes. It is a way to show that their efforts are being appreciated and expect them to do more. This, according to him, informed the decision to introduce the award ceremony and it is the first of its kind in the 37 years of the University.

He said the awardees are in three categories: students who have CGPA of 4.5 and above, students who in the last one year have represented the University in various areas of extracurricular endeavour and won laurels, like sports and quiz competitions, and also students who have demonstrated exceptionally exemplary conduct throughout the year.

The VC who said FUT, Minna is going into a new dawn congratulated the awardees and hoped that they will see it as an opportunity to continue to do better as such performance and conduct will not go unrecognised. He commended the ceremonies committee for a job well done.

Earlier, the Chairman of the University Ceremonies Committee, Prof. Emmanuel Udensi, who is also the DVC (Administration) of the University during his opening remark said that, the ceremony is the vision of the VC to

encourage students who have won laurels for the University in terms of international and regional competitions and those who's CGPA are above 4.5 (first class) grade. "This is the beginning of greater things to come," he added.

He further stated that the essence of the award ceremony is to encourage students in the first class grade to continue with it and those who are not to hunger to be in that grade.

Over 422 students won the vice chancellor's award. Those with the CGPA of 4.5 (first class) and above were given certificate of commendation, right to access hostel accommodation and those from 300-500 level will have their registration fees written off.

Others who have won a gold, silver and bronze medal will also be given certificate of commendation and cash prizes of N50,000.00, N30,000.00 and N20,000.00 respectively.

FUTMINNA @ 37: ACCOLADES, GARLANDS FOR A PACE-SETTING IVORY TOWER



The University's entrance gate, Main Campus

The 37th Founders' Day and 29th Convocation ceremonies of the Federal University of Technology, Minna may have come and gone, it is pertinent to reflect on the notable milestones recorded by the institution since inception.

The University was established on February 1st, 1983 with a vision to become a world class institution of learning and Nigeria's leading University recognized for its excellence in capacity building and service delivery. The institution's mission focuses on the training of skilled and innovative workforce that would transform Nigeria's natural resources into goods and services driven by entrepreneurship as well as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to positively affect the economy and thus the quality of life of her people. It is instructive to note that 37 years down the line since its establishment, the University has not deviated from its stated vision and mission.

The University started at a temporary campus in Bosso with barely 15 staff, less than 100 pioneer students and two Schools. The University now has nine faculties including the Postgraduate School, over 22,000 students population and over 3,000 staff strength which

comprises both teaching and non-teaching staff. The University also moved into its permanent campus located along Minna-Bida road during the 2004/2005 academic session.

From an obscure background, the institution now has more than 140 professors, providing scholarly mentorship for junior staff and students of the University. There are about 165 staff of the university who are within and outside the country pursuing various doctorate and Master's degree programmes under the institution's sponsorship policy. The selection process is transparent and rancour free because the consideration of staff for study fellowship is under the purview of the University's Committee of Deans who has the mandate to make recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

Since its inception, it has been one story of progress or another for FUT Minna. The University has been soaring high like an eagle in all perspectives which has also culminated in the institution being ranked as the best specialized university in the country. FUT, Minna was one of only two Universities to have scored AA+ in the last and only institutional accreditation exercise conducted by the National

Universities Commission (NUC) and 4th among the best most preferred graduates by employers.

Indeed, FUT Minna is truly a cosmopolitan university in the country, with its students and staff population drawn from every local government area in the country. The University has consistently provided a level playing field for staff and students to aspire for any position irrespective of religion, tribe or ethnic considerations. It is a university where the best brains are assembled on the basis of what they can offer and not where they hail from. This is further demonstrated with staff from various ethnic or religious backgrounds occupying vital positions. Similarly, in terms of students' admission, every local government area in the country is also represented in the University's admission policy.

Furthermore, cases abound of other people from the Southern part of the country heading sensitive positions in the University. This is a story that is rare in other federal institutions in the country where attainment of elective or appointive posts are based on primordial sentiments. The liberal disposition of the institution towards all nationals since inception has no doubt accounted for its impressive progress.

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For seven years running, FUT, Minna has been consistent in conducting its convocation ceremony every year with certificates issued to graduands on the spot in tandem with global best practices. This singular act has further endeared the University alumni to the institution. Also, students' transcripts have been automated and its alumni can now apply for their transcripts online via the university website from any part of the world. The period of application and collection of transcript is now less than three days. Also, staff of the University are promoted as and when due in line with the University's extant laws. For instance, it is on record that all professorial promotions for 2018 have been concluded and those for 2019 have been sent out for external assessment. The University also holds its Senate meeting every last Wednesday of the Month to deliberate on issues of contemporary importance for the development of the University, and examination results are usually approved by the University Senate within six weeks after the examination.

FUT Minna has an intriguing track record of superb scholarship comparable to any part of the world and this has made the university the cynosure of all eyes whenever quality university education is mentioned in this clime. In the area of research breakthrough, the institution ranks high among its peers in the country and has a well-documented history of ambitious researches that led to amazing discoveries. In the early 1990s, one of the University researchers, Prof. Samuel A. Garba of the Department of Microbiology developed the typhoid fever vaccine which became the toast of the country. In terms of research grants, the University researchers have attracted many grants to the institution since its establishment.

Notable among these grants are; the World Bank (Step-B) project for vaccine and drug development to the tune of 5.5 million dollars. The World Bank grant led to the establishment of the Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. At this Centre, some of the university researchers carried out a study which led to the development of the first carbon nanotube for the treatment of water plants in Nigeria.

In 2012, the university won a grant from

Germany for the establishment of West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) Master Research Programme (MRP) in Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (CC & ALU). Owing to the outstanding performance of the University, the programme has been upgraded to Ph.D. status in Climate Change and Human Habitat. This has also contributed immensely to the bulk of the University research drive geared at tackling societal problems in the areas of climate change, environmental degradation and safety. This programme has also assisted greatly in the institution's quest for internationalization of its programmes because the bulk of students for the WASCAL programme are from the West African sub-region, thereby giving FUT Minna an international outlook. In 2018, FUT Minna won the World Bank research grant for the establishment of Africa Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety worth six million dollars. This programme will assist in the training of competent manpower at Master's and Ph.D. levels to address the problem of mycotoxin and food safety in West, Central and East Africa.

Over the years, the University has been consistent in winning the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) institutional based research grants and National Research Funds. Out of the nine research proposals submitted by the university to TETFund for the 2019 national research calls, five went through and got grants of N175, 943, 776. 00. FUT, Minna was also part of a consortium involving four other African Universities that won a grant of 1. 4 million Euros under the African Intra-mobility programme. The institution also won a grant of £155, 465 from the Royal Academy of Engineering, United Kingdom for Artificial Intelligence for Clean Energy. For the past five years, the university researchers have won several grants from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NUC) in telecommunication related inventions. The university has also attracted grants from the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steels as well as other local and international sources. In view of the University's commitment towards research and patent applications, the National Office for

Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) donated world class equipment to the institution for the establishment of an Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Office (IPTTO).

Just recently, the NUC granted approval to the University's Centre of Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) to run an online degree programme via ICT enabled learning model of Open Distance Learning (ODL).

In view of the need to meet up with the demand of the 21st century, the university has reinvented and introduced some novel courses aimed at providing the fulcrum of manpower required to reshape the fortunes of the nation. The Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Bala has concluded plans to float new programmes in the Departments of Oil and Gas Engineering, Welding Engineering, Mining Engineering and the School of Health Sciences.

Funding largely from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Presidential Needs Assessment Fund for the Revitalization of Public Universities has enabled the University to undertake the construction of complexes for the School of Life Sciences and the School of Physical Sciences. The completion of these projects will enable the University relocate the two schools from the Bosso campus to the Gidan Kwano campus. The University has also started the construction of earth dam to address the shortage of water scarcity on Campus.

The University also has a valid partnership with some renowned institutions abroad namely Florida A & M University (FAMU), United States of America, Ghent University, Belgium, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat, India just to mention but a few. The partnerships centre on staff and students exchange programme, joint research collaboration. The University also has collaboration with GIZ Germany on Entrepreneurship. There are also some memoranda of understanding initiated with the aim of widening access to university education with some Polytechnics and Colleges of Education to run affiliated degree programmes with strict supervision by the university.

The University's postgraduate programme is now one of the most highly sought after on the continent based on the fact that it is

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well structured and students conclude their studies as and when due without delay for those who are ready to work. This has culminated in exponential rise in the number of students seeking admission for postgraduate education in the university.

The University has also made tremendous progress in addressing the shortage of students' hostel accommodation on campus, mainly through Public and Private Partnership with reputable investors as well as governmental *intervention through the Needs Assessment Funds* used to build the Ultra-modern students hostel adjudged as one of the best in the country.

The present Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala has demonstrated an unprecedented commitment towards the development of the University. As a consummate University administrator with over 30 years of scholarship, the Vice-Chancellor has used his contact in the society to attract critical infrastructure and investors to the institution. Notable among these partnerships is the on-going

construction work for 5, 336 bed spaces undertaken by Urban Shelter Limited based on Build, Operate and Transfer agreement with the University. To ease the problem of students' accommodation, the University Alumni Association has also embarked on the construction of 5, 000-bed space hostel for the University. The University has also introduced the students' support programme as well as the Vice-Chancellor's Students' Awards ceremony to honour all students who score up to CGPA of 4.50, which is first class grade entry point.

The University has been able to record all these milestones because of the well-documented support it enjoys from the host communities of Bosso and Gidan Kwano. To reciprocate these gestures, the university, since inception, has introduced different life changing programmes to impact its host communities.

The Federal University of Technology, Minna has gone a long way in making a case for its rightful elevation into the league of the world's elite universities.



The VC, Prof. Bala

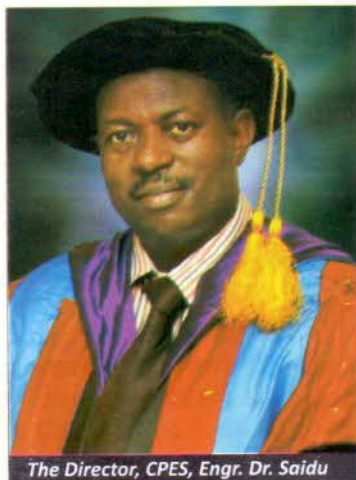
Indeed, all these achievements recorded over the years from limited available resources is proof of the rarefied field the institution now plays in. Consequently, the university is open to more partnerships and support from spirited individuals, corporate organizations, particularly its Alumni to enable the University provide the right resources that would stimulate effective learning and research in its quest for more global recognition. Indeed, FUT Minna is moving forward.

OUR IJMB, PRE-DEGREE PROGRAMMES ARE HIGHLY RATED- DIRECTOR CPES

The Director of the Centre for Preliminary & Extra-Mural Studies (CPES) of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Engr. Dr. Mohammed Saidu has stated that the institution's Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) and pre-degree programmes are highly rated by universities across the country.

The Director made this disclosure during an exclusive chat with FUTMinna Newsletter recently in his office at the Bosso Campus of the institution.

Engr. Dr. Saidu said the IJMB programme has received several commendations during annual appraisal and inspection of facilities by officials from the headquarters-Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for zero tolerance for examination malpractices, quality of the subjects outline as well as its elevated standards. He disclosed that the majority of students who undergo the IJMB and secured the minimum grade points were admitted into 200 level in FUTMinna and other institutions. In addition, he revealed that the same can



The Director, CPES, Engr. Dr. Saidu

also be said of students who sat for the institution's pre-degree programme and met the minimum Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and FUTMinna scoring requirements

The Director noted that most of the tutors handling the IJMB and Pre-degree programmes are Master's degree holders while few have Ph.Ds, even as he attributed the performance of students in the mainstream University who passed through any of the programme to the quality of the tutors.

Also germane to note, Engr. Dr. Saidu revealed that all admission procedures and students' results have been digitalized to ensure efficiency of the system while disclosing that the IJMB students have been receiving lectures online since June, 2020 due to the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic; thereby ensuring that they are ahead of other IJMB students elsewhere.

He advised secondary school leavers to take advantage of the programmes to brighten their chances of securing admission into institutions of higher learning instead of staying at home after leaving school.

"We are making arrangements to get resource verification and accreditation from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to run diploma and certificate programmes in our Centres in Minna and Suleja in partnership with other departments and Centres in the University," the Director stated.

The don of Civil Engineering thanked the University's Management, particularly the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala for his regular support to the Centre.

COVID-19: NAF, FUTMinna Invent Locally-Made Ventilators

As part of efforts to curtail the deadly coronavirus disease and bring succour to patients on their journey to recovery, the Nigerian AirForce (NAF) and the Federal University of Technology, Minna have developed two locally-made emergency ventilators to support patients with respiratory challenges.

Christened NAF e-Vents, the ventilators developed by the NAF, FUT, Minna in partnership with the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, were unveiled on Wednesday, May 26, 2020 at the Nigerian AirForce Base, Kaduna by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshall SadiqueAbubakar.

Speaking before the unveiling ceremony, Air Marshall Abubakar affirmed that the production of the two ventilators was a demonstration of the Nigerian AirForce's resolve to continue to make significant contribution to the development of the country by proffering solutions to societal problems through the use of indigenous materials and expertise.

Represented by the NAF Chief of Standards and Evaluation (COSE), Air Vice Marshall, RemigiusEkeh, Abubakar said the development was necessitated by the need to take proactive steps in tackling the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that the production of the ventilators would further boost the profile of the Nigerian AirForce and the collaborating universities.

Furthermore, the Chief of Air Staff disclosed that the NAF had vigorously set the pace for robust and result-based Research and Development (R&D) policy, with emphasis on the provision of indigenous technological solutions, while noting that it had, over the years, engaged in strategic partnerships with some Ministries, Departments and Agencies with a view to reducing dependence on external partners and other nations.

He noted that the ventilators have undergone a series of tests to ascertain their effectiveness on animals with satisfactory outcomes, even as he submitted that the ventilators are now ready for human testing and certification by relevant government agencies.

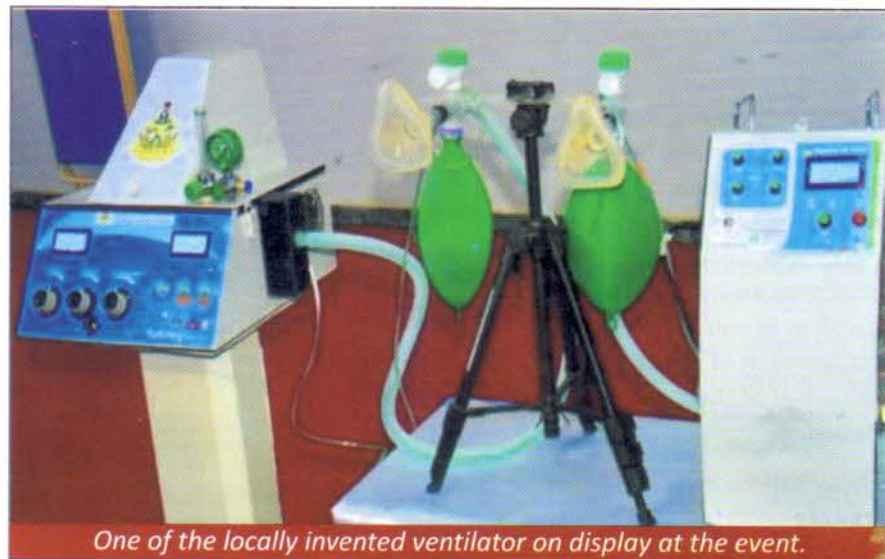
Equally important, the AirForce boss further stated that private sector collaborations would be needed for mass production of the ventilators.

In an exclusive virtual chat with the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fsssn, the VC expressed delight with the outcome of the research endeavour within the short period despite the lockdown and the ongoing strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). He stated that the development of the ventilators was in recognition of the university's enhanced research drive,

of our contribution to the development of the country", he stated.

Speaking with the leader of the FUT, Minna research group who worked with the NAF researchers, Engr. Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu said all the materials used for the production of the ventilators were locally sourced and produced by local engineers, while disclosing that the local operating conditions of the ventilators were perfectly tested and compared with the ventilators imported from China by the team.

Engr. Prof. Aibinu who is also the Head of Department, Mechatronics Engineering,



One of the locally invented ventilator on display at the event.

geared at conducting novel research to tackle societal problems rather than just for promotion purposes.

Prof. Bala commended the Nigerian AirForce for finding FUT, Minna and the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria worthy of the collaboration. Additionally, he called on other government agencies and multinationals in the country to approach Nigerian universities for their research needs.

"The involvement of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in this novel project is a perfect demonstration of my administration's commitment to scale up research in the university with a view towards boosting the university's profile as a leading institution in Nigeria in terms of research, innovations and excellent service delivery. We are happy to be part of this project which is also part

FUT, Minna expressed appreciation to the NAF for providing the enabling environment which stimulated the prompt delivery of the equipment. Also, he applauded the leader of the NAF R&D team, Group Captain Osichinaka Ubadike for displaying superb leadership skills during the course of the project. He called on the private sector to drive the commercialization process of the equipment to enable it get to the market and the reach of more Nigerians.

The successful testing of the equipment was carried out at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ABU Zaria.

Consequently, the ventilators have been confirmed for human use and will be subjected to further validation by the appropriate government agencies before mass production.

COVID-19: Multi- Purpose Cooperative Donates Hand Washing Machines To Futminna

As part of concerted efforts to curb the spread of corona virus disease, the Federal University of Technology, Minna Staff Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Limited has donated 10 locally fabricated hand washing machines to the Management of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The brief ceremony took place recently at the ground floor of the University Senate Building, Main Campus.

Speaking before presenting the equipment, the President of the Cooperative Society, Mal. Aminu Mohammed Ashafa said the donation was in furtherance of the Cooperative Society's corporate social responsibility to the University as well as to support the University Management in its quest to prevent the spread of the deadly corona virus disease.

"These hand washing machines will promote good hygiene by ensuring that staff and students of the institution constantly wash their hands under a running water with soap which is one of the preventive strategies recommended by health officials", he stated.



The University Pos and Multi-Purpose Cooperative executive members in a group photograph after making the donation to the University.

"I wish to state that Covid-19 is real and our people should continue to adhere to Covid-19 precautionary measures recommended by the government such as frequent hand washing with soap and water, social distancing and wearing of face masks in public. By doing this, we would not only slow down the spread of the virus but also show our support to health workers that are working round the clock to save lives and protect us from Covid-19", he advised.

Mal. Aminu commended the Vice-Chancellor of the University for the Proactive Measures put in place to curb the spread of the disease on Campus as well as the massive infrastructural projects ongoing on Campus.

He further revealed that the FUT Staff Multi-Purpose

Cooperative Society Limited is financially healthy, reliable and committed to meeting the demands of its members any time.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, expressed appreciation to the Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society for contributing towards the control and management of the spread of the disease on Campus through the donation of the hand washing machines, adding that the machines would be deployed across the University.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the University is working on putting protocols for the prevention of the disease in place while calling on other corporate organizations and staff of the University to emulate the gesture of the Cooperative Society.

In her vote of thanks, the Vice-President of the Cooperative Society, Mrs. Damaris Tsado thanked the Vice-Chancellor for making out time to receive the equipment personally from them.



The donated hand washing machines on display

History As FUTMinna Microbiology Dept Unveils Sterilized Facemasks, Donates 100 to VC



L-R The HOD, Microbiology, Dr. Adabara presenting some of the facemasks to the VC, Prof. Bala

the donation of the facemasks is gratifying especially because it has been treated and due to the fact that it is coming from a renowned university known for excellence in conducting cutting-edge research.

Prof. Bala stated that any product of the university should have value addition in terms of excellence and expertise, which would naturally distinguish it from the ones being produced elsewhere. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor disclosed that the University is presently working on the production of Hi-Tech hand washing machines which would further improve upon the locally fabricated ones in the market.

The VC also stated that the University would soon organize an exhibition for the institution's researchers to showcase all covid-19 related inventions.

Prof. Bala, who is also the Chairman of the Association of West African University (AWAU), assured the department that the facemasks would be distributed to staff and judiciously utilized in order to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The high point of the event was the presentation of the facemasks to the Vice-Chancellor. Other dignitaries present at the event were members of the University Management, some staff from the department of Microbiology and the Director, University Health Services.

History was made on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 as the Department of Microbiology of the Federal University of Technology, Minna set a new pace in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic with the production of a sterilized brand of facemasks, a first of its kind in Nigeria.

Equally important, 100 units of the special facemasks were also donated to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn.

The brief presentation ceremony took place at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking before presenting the items to the Vice-Chancellor, the Head of department, Microbiology, Dr. Nasiru Usman Adabara said the department has a role to play in the prevention and control of micro-organisms which include Covid-19, while stating that the donation of the facemasks was in furtherance of the department's community service function to the University and the nation at large through the conduct of novel research to address societal problems.

Dr. Adabara disclosed that the department was motivated to undertake the production of

the facemasks in order to appreciate the University Management for their support as well as to thank staff who have been working tirelessly since the outbreak of the disease to keep the University moving.

The Head of Department stated that the facemasks were produced locally in the department with value addition through the development of a fumigation chamber to sterilize the facemasks to make it safer for usage, adding that the department has the capacity to embark on mass production of the facemasks for commercial purposes.

He further commended all the staff of the department for being part of the novel production of the facemasks.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala expressed appreciation to the department for writing the University's name in gold for another good reason by adding an expert touch to the production of facemasks. He noted that this is the direction that FUT, Minna should follow as a leading university of science and technology in the country.

While assuring the department of the University Management's support, the VC said

COVID-19 Lockdown: Online Learning Remains Useful Options For US - FUTMinna VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala



The VC, Prof. Bala

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has stated that online learning platforms remain one of the viable options open to the the institution for the resumption of academic activities owing to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Vice-Chancellor stated this when he featured on a Channels Television magazine show tagged: Covid-19 Pandemic Update. The session, which was broadcast on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, was monitored by the University Press Unit.

Prof. Bala disclosed that the University has put several

preventive measures in place to curb the spread of the virus on campus. The University don revealed that these include social distancing principles as well as other health protocols which will help decongest large classes and overcrowded hostels.

Furthermore, he disclosed that the institution is fully ready to go online in a worst case scenario, if students are unable to physically resume.

FUT Minna has remained in the forefront as one of the most innovative and forward-thinking institution of higher learning in Nigeria.

Indeed, FUT, Minna is moving forward under the able leadership of Prof. AbdullahiBala.

FUTMinna Embarks on 2nd Annual Tree Planting Exercise

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has said that trees apart from providing shades and beautifying the landscapes also cleanse the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide from the environment and releases oxygen that we breathe.

The Vice-Chancellor made this known on June 23, 2020 during the flag-off ceremony of the 2nd edition of the institution's Tree Planting Exercise held at the University Golf Course, Main Campus.

He emphasized on the need to ensure safer greener environment and for people to preserve the plants from destruction.

Speaking earlier, the Chairperson, University Afforestation and Landscaping Committee, Prof. (Mrs.) Zinash Osunde stated that evergreen trees improve people's living ability and air quality by filtering away harmful dust and pollutants.

She admonished everybody to plant at least a tree and see to its growth.

"Planting of trees is important as they improve the life and fulfill essential needs of mankind", She added.

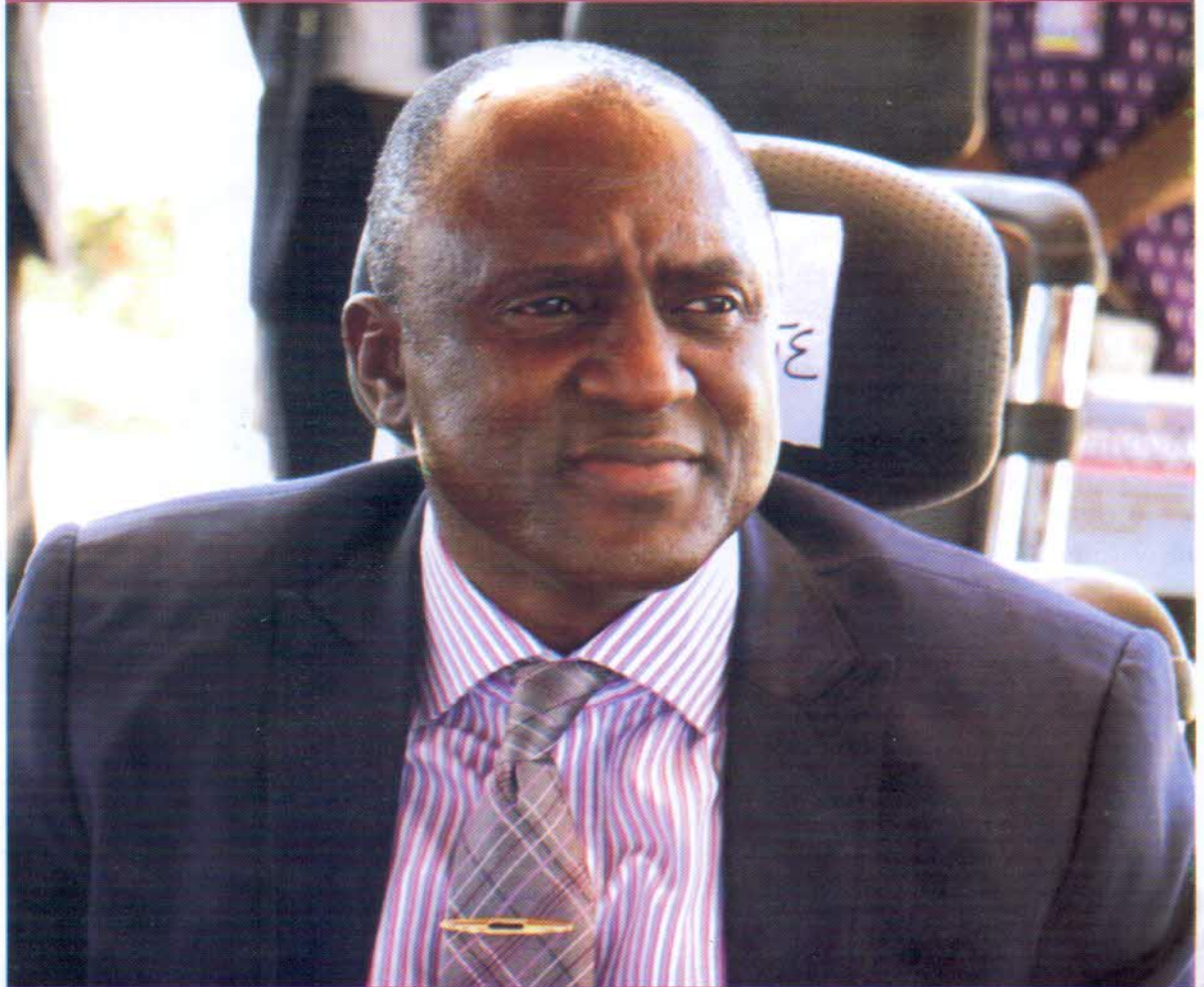
The highlight of the event was the planting of trees by the Vice-Chancellor, other Principal Officers of the University, Deans and Directors at the event.

The Vice-Chancellor was later tutored on the rudiments of the game of golf by the University's Golf Course, Mr. Sunday Ordega.



The VC, Prof. Bala (2nd from left) planting a tree during the exercise while other POs looked on with rapt interest.

PROF BALA ELECTED AWAU CHAIRMAN



The VC, Prof. Bala

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, has been elected the new Chairman of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU). The election which was unanimously affirmed to by all Heads of University in the West Africa region who participated in the election.

The VC's election was one of the highpoints of the 7th Annual Conference and 9th Annual General Meeting of the Association held at the Universite D' Abomey, Calavi (UAC), Benin Republic.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Bala expressed gratitude to members of the Association for finding him worthy for the

exalted position while assuring them that he would not disappoint the confidence reposed in him.

"I am humbled by the confidence reposed in me especially given the fact that I am less than two years into my tenure as Vice-Chancellor. I had expected that a more experienced Vice-Chancellor would have been chosen given the onerous responsibility of the office, the VC disclosed.

On his vision for the Association, Prof. Bala disclosed that he would promote the internationalization of West African Universities through students and staff exchange programmes as well as forge cross border research and collaboration

as a route for further integration in the region.

Prof. Bala also applauded the immediate past President of the Association and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Prof. Abdulganiyu Ambali for successfully steering the affairs of the Association to greater heights in the last three years.

He thanked the Management of the Universite D' Abomey, Calavi for playing host to the two crucial meetings and for the hospitality accorded to participants.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place in 2020 in Gambia.

AWAU ELECTION:

Niger State Governor Felicitates with FUTMINNA VC

The Governor of Niger State, Alh. (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello has felicitated with the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, on his emergence as the Chairman of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU).

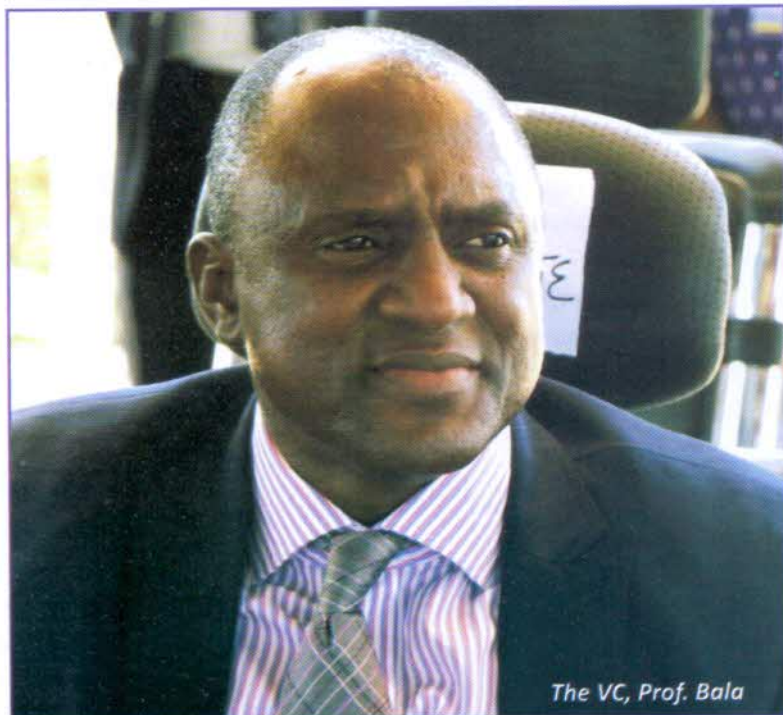
According to a congratulatory message issued by the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mrs. Mary Noel Berje, Gov. Bello said the victory of Prof. Bala as the Chairman of the Association was a clear testimony of his outstanding performance over the years and enjoined him to sustain and improve on it.

The Governor disclosed that Prof. Bala has also been carrying out his national assignment diligently in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the laws establishing universities in Nigeria.

"I join the academic community and indeed



Niger State Governor, Alh. (Dr.) Sani Bello



The VC, Prof. Bala

all Nigerians in sharing this moment of joy with you. It is gratifying to see one of our own emerged to lead the association of universities from this part of the continent. We are proud of you and expect exemplary representation in the discharge of your responsibilities," the Governor stated.

Governor Sani Bello also urged the Vice-Chancellor to continue to use his administrative expertise in the discharge of his assigned duties as the President of the Association while praying God to grant him wisdom and courage to bring about the desired growth and development in the reputable institution.

It will be recalled that the VC was elected as President of the Association during its extraordinary meeting held in Benin Republic.

PROF BALA ASSUMES OFFICE AS AWAU CHAIRMAN

● Vows To Bring More Universities On Board

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has assumed office as the third substantive Chairman of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU).

The hand over ceremony took place at the AWAU headquarters, Abuja with new and old executive members in attendance to witness the epochal event.

Speaking after being sworn-in as the Chairman of AWAU, Prof. Bala expressed gratitude to the outgoing Chairman of the Association for steering the affairs of the Association to enviable heights during his eventful tenure, adding that he would do everything possible within the purview of his new office to further advance the fortunes of the Association.

He noted that the task ahead for the new executive members is onerous and prayed that God will give them the grace to carry out their new assigned responsibilities.

The Chairman said he has concluded arrangements to reach out to some critical stakeholders that will give support to the Association such as the Committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC), the National Universities Commission (NUC) and Federal Ministry of Education. Others are the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On the issue of funds, the Chairman said he would approach the ECOWAS Education Attaché to see how AWAU can get an additional source of income from the regional body to enable the



R-L: The former Chairman of AWAU, Prof. Ambali handing over to the new Chairman of AWAU, Prof. Bala at the AWAU Secretariat, Abuja.

Association to carry out some critical functions, saying that AWAU under his stewardship will address some of the problems identified by the former executives.

Prof. Bala frowned at the fact that universities from Sierra Leone and Liberia have not been able to attend the last two conferences of the Association, adding that he would put mechanism in place to reach out to them and others in order to increase AWAU membership profile.

The Vice-Chancellor promised to promote the internationalization of West African universities through students and staff exchange as well as forge cross border research and collaboration for further integration in the region.

Earlier in his speech before handing over, the former Chairman of AWAU,

Prof. Abdulganiyu Ambali commended members of the Association for all the support given to him to succeed, adding that during his tenure, he was able to bring universities within the region together through research collaborations.

Prof. Ambali congratulated the new executive members and assured them of his support and cooperation.

The Director of Administration of the Secretariat later took the new Chairman and other executive members around the headquarters on facilities tour.

It will be recalled that the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala was unanimously elected by all member universities during its last extra-ordinary conference and Annual General Meeting held at the University D' Abomey, Calavi, Benin Republic in October, 2019.

PROF BALA INAUGURATES INT'L TEST CENTRE

As part of concerted efforts to offer the right balance of academic excellence and real-world skills, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn has inaugurated the newly equipped International Test Centre.

The epochal event took place to on Friday, August 14, 2020 at the University's e-Examination Arena, Main Campus.

Speaking at the event before inaugurating the world-class Centre, Prof. Bala said the centre was borne out of consultation with the institution's Information Technology Service (ITS) in respect of furthering the opportunities for not only the university community but people within the state and the North-Central geo-political zone for them to be able to have an easily accessible test centre for various certification tests, adding that the primary motivation behind the launch of the centre was also largely economy-oriented in the sense that the availability of the centre would generate additional revenue stream for the University.

"I also saw an opportunity for us in terms of widening and deepening the emerging concept for the students' support services; part of which is to provide skills and enhance employability of our students and graduates. Any graduate with one form of certification or the other usually will have an edge over a graduate that does not have a certification. The certificates from these different bodies are acceptable anywhere in the world," Prof. Bala disclosed.

Further, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the essence of certification was to prepare an individual for the workplace. He noted that when the



The VC, Prof. Bala (M) cutting the tape to inaugurate the Int'l Test Centre while others looked on.

institution's graduates possess relevant certifications, it would give them an edge in the search for employment opportunities.

The doyen of Soil Science and Land Management stated that the University's International Test Centre is an authorized test centre for Centriport and International Computer Drivers' License (ICDL), adding that the University is waiting for final approval from Prometric and Pearson Vue.

Equally germane to note, the don disclosed that the decision of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to fund the training of some university staff under the ICDL played a key role in the establishment of the Centre since TETFund insisted that the institution must have trainers with ICDL license. He noted that the presence of the centre in FUT, Minna would minimize capital flight. Prof. Bala added that the University also got approval for Huawei IT certifications since 2018, while revealing that the University is also working on bringing IBM on board to set up an ICT

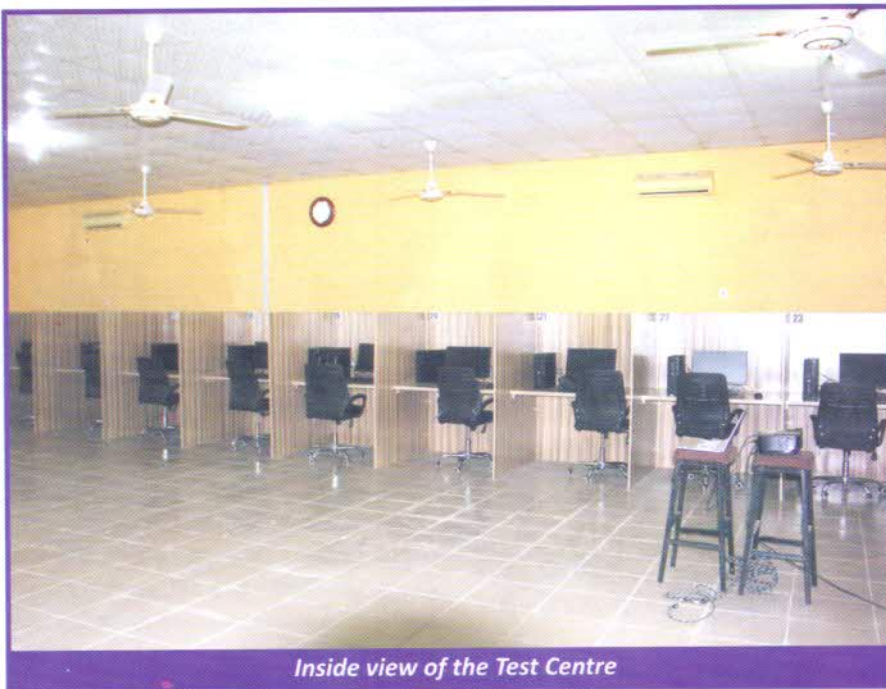
Academy.

"Now that we have this centre, it is our responsibility to make sure that we maintain it, optimally utilize the facilities but also maintain the integrity of the operations of the centre. It is absolutely important that the integrity of the centre in terms of examination processes and management are not compromised. We must not compromise the quality of supervision and undermine due process while conducting the examinations. There must be zero tolerance for any form of underhand practices in the centre," the seasoned scholar warned.

In addition, the University helmsman disclosed that the University has over forty different packages for the certification programme, with an option to add two more to it. Guests at the event were assured that the institution would continue to work towards expanding the various franchise available so that students can have a wide variety of options.

Prof. Bala noted that the centre would further enhance the direction for the

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Inside view of the Test Centre

students support programme, adding that he has appointed the immediate past Registrar of the University, Mrs. Victoria Nnawo Kolo as the Coordinator of the University Students Support Services.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that if due processes are not followed, the centre can be blacklisted; thereby dragging the University's well respected name in the mud. He commended the Director of ITS and his staff for seeing to the realization of the project.

Earlier in his address, the acting Director of ITS, Dr. Mohammed Adamu expressed gratitude to the University Management for their support which necessitated the establishment of the Centre in record time, adding that the Centre would provide lots of opportunity for people within the North-Central zone of the country to obtain useful certifications.

Dr. Adamu disclosed that the Centre would not only increase the University's revenue base but would also be for the benefit of both staff and students of the institution.

Speaking while conducting dignitaries around the facility, manager of the centre, Engr. Felix Oguche applauded

the Vice-Chancellor for believing in the project, as well as approving funds for the purchase of top-notch ICT equipment for the centre. He revealed that the state-of-the-art-facilities installed can compete favourably with that of any other centre in the country.

Engr. Felix added that the structure would provide the platform for the University to further develop the skills of staff and students in order to make them competitive in the 21st century.

"Sir, the confidence you reposed in me

and Mr. Omojola Odepitan has yielded fruitful result. Thank you for sending us to Lagos to undergo a series of training in order to boost our knowledge base to spearhead this Centre", Engr. Oguche said.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Mr. Omojola Odepitan thanked the Vice-Chancellor for honouring them by being present to flag off the Centre. He assured the VC that they would do everything possible to make the centre the best in the country.

In addition, he commended other guests for making out time to attend the event.

The certification courses available at the Centre are; Adobe certified associate, Certitrek, Teradata, Microsoft technical certification, novia. The list also include Zend technologies, GMAT, junifer networks, citrix systems inc. and others too numerous to mention.

One of the highpoints of the ceremony was also the unveiling of the centre's dedicated website to boost engagement between it and prospective students or partners.

The Centre is equipped with contemporary hi-tech facilities needed to discharge its functions seamlessly.



The Manager of the Centre, Engr. Felix Oguche explaining a point to dignitaries during the tour of facilities at the Centre.

PRO-CHANCELLOR UNVEILS SEARCH FM LIVE STUDIO

As part of efforts to boost university-community relations through effective deployment of relevant mass media channels, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle has unveiled the newly equipped Search FM 92.3 live broadcast studio.

Equally important, the state-of-the-art studio is worth over N6m.

The event took place on Thursday, August 13 at the station's Conference Room, Muhammad Badamasi Babangida (MBB) House, Main Campus.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Odekunle commended the station for the perseverance, resilience and determination shown in remaining relevant in the broadcast industry in the state, despite the vicissitudes suffered in the past, both natural or man-made.

The Pro-Chancellor disclosed that the commitment shown by the station's management necessitated the move by Council to approve funds to improve infrastructure for enhanced performance.

"Part of the quality of the Federal University of Technology, Minna is that when you give money for a project, you get the value for the money. Just six months after approval was given for this project; we are here to inaugurate the project. It is my pleasure to be part of this ceremony," the doyen of Criminology in Nigeria disclosed.

Earlier in his address at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, commended the station for changing the narrative of community radio broadcasting in Nigeria within the 10 years of its existence, adding that the station has surmounted several challenges in the past to remain afloat in the broadcast industry, including the unfortunate fire incident that affected the station's equipment in 2014.

Prof. Bala expressed delight to the Chairman of the Governing Council and other members for giving approval for

the release of funds which necessitated the relocation of the station to its permanent live studio.

"Today, we are here to officially commission the highly improved Live Studio of the permanent building of the University's Campus Radio here at the MBB House which comprises the following unique features; fire retardant studio acoustics, transmitter room equipped with online streaming facility for both live audio and real-time video, good space to accommodate live audience participation from the student population or the university host community, live broadcast gadgets and an observation compartment for guests, pupils/students and interns on excursion or training activities.

"Others include live reporting gadgets, disc jockey stand, live phone call gadgets as well as recording phone call gadgets, Internet facility, an intercom facility, low powered air conditioning systems, increased lighting system and ambience to suit programming on radio" the Vice-Chancellor revealed.

"The live studio is also linked to the recording studio for live performances and auditions, conference room to relay live events like this commissioning ceremony, Students' Union Government (SUG) manifesto as well as live debates for Students' Union Presidential candidates with a live audience," Prof.

Bala stated.

The University helmsman disclosed that the University Management approved the relocation of the live studio to the MBB House in May 2020. Furthermore, he said that the station has attracted numerous encomiums and admiration from both campuses and private radio stations nationwide.

"It is also important to note that the University radio station marked 10 years of full fledged broadcasting on the 2nd of August, 2020 and activities to mark the 10th Anniversary will be rolled out after the resumption of academic activities," the don stated.

Highlight of the event was the commissioning of the studio and the tour of the studio facilities by dignitaries present at the event.

Other guests at the event include members of the University Governing Council, Principal Officers, staff and volunteer members of the station.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Azeeza Muhammad Lawal, who is a volunteer staff of the station, thanked the University Council, Management and other generous-spirited individuals for supporting the station while stating that the station would continue to be at the forefront of people oriented based station and balanced reportage of national issues.



L-R: The Pro-Chancellor, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle cutting the tape to unveil the newly equipped Search FM 92.3 Live Studio, supported by the VC, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn

In a bid to provide a conducive learning ambience for pupils, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has unveiled the newly renovated University Staff School buildings and other projects worth N6, 666,050 million naira sponsored by the Parents' Teacher Association (PTA).

The brief flag-off ceremony took place Friday, June 19, 2020 at the School's premises, Bosso Campus.

Speaking before unveiling the projects, the Vice-Chancellor commended the School's PTA Executives for providing purposeful leadership and financial prudence in the discharge of their duties, adding that the kind of leadership exhibited by the PTA excos is sorely needed in the country.

"I always like coming here to flag-off projects. I have lost count of the number of times that I have been here to flag-off projects or being represented. The PTA has been of tremendous good to the Staff School and it did not start today because previous Executives have also done well. I must confess that this is the best PTA that the School has ever had in his over 30 years history. But these particular projects have left me speechless", the VC disclosed.

Furthermore, Prof. Bala urged them to continue the good work, while assuring them of the University Management's support at all times. This, he disclosed, is paramount because they are adding value to the School with the meagre resources released to them.

The Varsity don admonished other Units in the University to emulate the School's PTA.

Equally important, the University's helmsman further urged the University Staff School to mobilize resources for the commencement of online teaching classes for their pupils; even as he applauded the PTA for not leaving the School's teachers behind in the technological revolution that the University is pushing forward by organizing ICT training for them.

The VC who was filled with joy with the quality of the renovated buildings by the

PTA, announced the donation of an 18-seater bus to the School. In addition, he thanked friends of the School for always identifying and contributing to its development.

Speaking earlier, the immediate past Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly, Hon. Ahmed Marafa Guni expressed gratitude to the School's PTA for the quality of the renovated buildings, stating that as a member of the School's PTA, he is always proud to be associated with the institution.

Hon. Marafa, who is a serving member of the State House of Assembly, commended the PTA for disclosing the financial breakdown of the projects which he described as a show of accountability.

"I pledge that by next week the School will get a brand new 7.5 KVA generator as my little contribution to the development of the School," Hon. Marafa pledged.

He noted that education remains the best legacy that any leader can bequeath to the people, stressing that this necessitated his decision to provide scholarships for over 350 students of tertiary institutions within his Constituency. Also, he affirmed that he would continue to champion policies that would improve the well-being of the people.

In his welcome address, the PTA Chairman, Dr. Muhammed Adamu thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his well-documented support to the growth of the School, adding that the sum of N3.5 million given to the PTA by the VC went a long way towards the realization of the projects executed by the PTA.

Dr. Adamu who is also the acting Director, Information and Technology Service of



The VC, Prof. Bala inspecting the newly renovated Staff School facilities with the School's PTA Chairman, Dr. Adamu

the University, revealed that they have salaries despite the lockdown occasioned by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. While expressing gratitude to the staff and parents of the School for their support, he stated that the renovation exercise was massive, even as he revealed that it cut across the replacement of all leaking roofs, broken windows, procurement of new office furniture for staff as well as chairs and desks for students.

Also, the PTA Chairman donated 100 pieces of facemasks to the University Management.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the Chairman, University Staff School Management Board, Prof. Ibrahim Dantani Wushishi said the laudable achievements recorded by the PTA can be attributed to the purposeful leadership that the institution's Vice-Chancellor is providing at the top. He commended the VC and Hon. Marafa for their donations, while assuring them that the bus and the generator would be judiciously utilized.

Other projects renovated by the PTA include the equipping of the School's ICT hall with internet connectivity, painting of all the School's buildings, renovation of the toilets, procurement and repairs of play gadgets, complete renovation of the School's administrative block and development of e-result software, among others.

PROF BALA PAYS SURPRISE VISIT TO CONSTRUCTION SITES



The VC, Prof. Bala (m) explaining a point to the contractor at the site while others watched with keen interest.

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) on Friday, August 14, 2020 paid an unscheduled visit to two construction sites at the Main Campus.

The visit which was aimed at getting a first-hand information on the level of progress of work made by the different contractors handling the projects.

The Vice-Chancellor's first port of call was the National Information Technology and Development Agency (NITDA) IT Hub. Thereafter, the University generalissimo proceeded to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) IT Hub.

The two IT Hubs are some of the projects attracted to the University by the Vice-Chancellor.

In a related development, the Vice-Chancellor also inspected the newly renovated twin Lecture Theatre at the School of Environmental Technology (SET). The VC applauded the contractor for doing a wonderful job and advised the School to ensure regular maintenance of the Lecture Theatre.

The VC was accompanied to the various sites by other Principal Officers of the institution, the acting Directors of Information Technology Service (ITS) and Physical Planning and Development Unit (PPDU).



L-R: Director of PPDU, Arc. Idris Alhassan with the VC, Prof. Bala



VC, Prof. Bala (m) explaining a point to another Contractor during the visit

NEW DAWN AS PROF BALA UNVEILS RENOVATED STAFF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- Donates 18-Seater Bus
- Hon. Marafa, Former Niger Speaker, Donates 7.5 KVA Generator

In a bid to provide a conducive learning ambience for pupils, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, has unveiled the newly renovated University Staff School buildings and other projects worth N6, 666,050 million naira sponsored by the Parents' Teacher Association (PTA).

The brief flag-off ceremony took place Friday, June 19, 2020 at the School's premises, Bosso Campus.

Speaking before unveiling the projects, the Vice-Chancellor commended the School's PTA Executives for providing purposeful leadership and financial prudence in the discharge of their duties, adding that the kind of leadership exhibited by the PTA excos is sorely needed in the country.

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Furthermore, Prof. Bala urged them to continue the good work, while assuring them of the University Management's support at all times. This, he disclosed, is paramount because they are adding value to the School with the meagre resources released to them.

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Equally important, the University's helmsman further urged the University Staff School to mobilize resources for the commencement of online teaching classes for their pupils; even as he applauded the PTA for not leaving the School's teachers behind in the technological revolution that the University is pushing forward by organizing ICT training for them.

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L-R: Director of PPDU, Arc. Idris Alhassan with the VC, Prof. Bala



VC, Prof. Bala (m) explaining a point to another Contractor during the visit

FUTMinna VC Unveils New KFF Outlet, Calls For Patronage

As part of efforts to ensure that students, staff and members of the host community get quality meals at affordable prices, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, has unveiled the new outlet of Kamzaf Fast Foods (KFF) Place 3 located in Gidan Kwano.

The colourful ceremony took place on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 and was well attended by dignitaries from all walks of life.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Bala applauded the Chairman of KFF Group for establishing the eatery close to the University, adding that the presence of the eatery would ensure that students, staff and members of the University community enjoy affordable, cost-sensitive meals.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented at the event by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the institution, Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka, fcsn, urged the KFF Group to maintain the lofty standards seen and assured them of the University Management's support and patronage.

In his address at the event, the Chairman of Bosso Local Government Area, Arc. Abubakar Suleiman Gomna expressed gratitude to the Management of KFF Group for finding the Local Government Area worthy for the establishment of one of its outlets.

Furthermore, he noted that the presence of the KFF eatery in Gidan Kwano community would further boost the economy of the area, while also providing a world class place of relaxation for staff and students of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

Arc. Gomna admonished members of the Gidan Kwano community to see the KFF outlet as one of their projects and support it to grow in order to provide employment opportunities for the teeming youth of the community.



The representative of the VC, Prof. Iyaka (3rd from left) cutting the tape to unveil the new KFF outlet with support from the Chairman, Bosso LGA, Arc. Gomna (4th from left) and others

He assured the KFF Group of the Local Government's support and urged them not to compromise on standards.

Making his remarks, the Dagachin Gidan Kwano, Alh. Abdulmalik Muhammad expressed appreciation to the KFF Group for bringing development to the community and pleaded for the community support towards ensuring that the company actualize the purpose of its establishment.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of KFF Group, Arc. Bako I. Muhammad, FNIMC, stated that the establishment of the KFF outlet in Gidan Kwano was in tandem with KFF's policy of providing essential services to the University community. He stated that the KFF Group has handled a series of high profile events within the State with impeccable records of excellent delivery.

The Chairman disclosed that the main production focus of the KFF are sumptuous meals, snacks, bakery and natural fresh beverages while revealing that the KFF Group is fulfilled with the take-off of the Gidan Kwano outlet because of its strategic location.

Equally important, the Chairman disclosed that the company had provided over 27 jobs for the unemployed and urged other wealthy individuals to invest in business ventures in order to reduce the rate of unemployment in Niger State.

"I am glad to inform you that this branch has engaged a total of 27 staff including men and women from the immediate host community. As of today, KFF Group in Niger State has employed a total of 69 staff and others on part-time basis", the Chairman, KFF Group disclosed.

The eatery comprises the restaurant, bakery with capacity to produce over 1,000 loaves of bread daily, snacks and small chops corner. Others include Students' ICT Centre, outdoor relaxation spot as well as ice cream and beverages corner.

Other dignitaries present at the event also took turns to commend the Chairman of KFF Group for changing the narrative of fast foods business in the State.

The KFF Group has been in business for over five years with three branches across the State.

FG To Rehabilitate Roads In FUTMinna As Prof Bala Receives Federal Ministry Of Works Team

As part of the Federal Government's effort to rehabilitate roads in all federal universities across the country, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, (Walin Zazzau Suleja) on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 received in audience the Federal Controller of Works, Niger State Zonal Office, Engr. Iheanacho Felix Umeh at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking during the visit, Engr. Umeh said the Federal

Government through the Ministry of Works and Housing is desirous of rehabilitating roads in all federal universities in the country, adding that the purpose of the visit was for them to have first-hand information on the state of roads in FUT Minna and make recommendations to the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing for execution.

The Federal Controller of Works disclosed that the FG had already rehabilitated some roads in other federal universities in the country. He assured the Vice-Chancellor that they would turn in a well-rounded report by taking proper cognizance of all the attributes of the chosen road network.

Responding, Prof. Bala expressed appreciation to the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing for identifying with the University, saying that the road intervention is coming at the right time because some of the internal roads in the institution were

in need of rehabilitation.

Furthermore, the University helmsman stated that there are massive construction activities ongoing in the University which has necessitated the need for service roads to enable the contractors handling the projects gain access road to facilitate timely completion of the projects.

He disclosed that the University Management is in agreement with the choice of road that requires urgent attention which is the road from the Sports Complex junction that passes through the University Clinic and School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology (SEMT) to the students' hostels.

He noted that the University would be glad if the road construction could be linked to the other main road at the back of the University Sports



The VC, Prof. Bala explaining the University's road network to the Federal Controller of Works, Niger State Zonal Office, Engr. Umeh while the Director of PDDU, Arc Idris Alhasan and other staff of the Unit looked on with keen interest.

Complex.

"If the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing can do this road for us, your name will be written in gold. Because the last time that any road was constructed in FUT, Minna was in the early 1990s. For the Minister of Works and Housing to remember us, we are very grateful," the Chairman of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU) stated.

The Professor of Soil Science assured the delegation from the Ministry that the University would work closely with them in order to achieve quick results.

The construction of tertiary institutions roads network is a Federal Government policy under President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. Presently, there are over 43 of such interventions across tertiary institutions in the country.

TRIBUTES GALORE AS FUTMINNA MANAGEMENT HOLDS VALEDICTORY SESSION FOR BURSAR



The immediate past Bursar, Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi.

In a touching show of appreciation for her many contributions to the development of the University, the Management of the Federal University of Technology, Minna recently held a valedictory session in honour of the out-gone Bursar of the institution, Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi.

The special Management meeting took place at the Council Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking during the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala commended the out-gone

Bursar, Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi for the innovation she brought on board in the running of the Bursary Department in the last six years, especially in the area of digitization which facilitated ease of payment in the University.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed that under her tenure, the University effortlessly migrated to the Treasury Single Account (TSA) platform as directed by the Federal Government in 2015.

Prof. Bala applauded Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi for her selfless service to the University and wished her

well in her future endeavours.

Responding, the out-gone Bursar, Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and other members of Management for their support, adding that she would forever be grateful to them for accommodating all her shortcomings.

She stated that the University is making progress because the Vice-Chancellor and other Management staff are God fearing and have the interest of the University at heart.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the newly appointed acting Bursar, Mrs. Rebecca Adi Adams who is expected to assume office on July 5, 2020, thanked the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor for finding her worthy to be appointed acting Bursar, while assuring them that she would not disappoint the trust and confidence reposed in her.

Mrs. Adams applauded the out-gone bursar for successfully completing her tenure, saying that she would continue to seek her support.

Equally important, other members of Management took turns to eulogize the out-gone Bursar for her humility and dedication to duty.

In attendance at the meeting were three staff of the Bursary Department who applied for the position of Bursar of the institution; Mal. Ahmed Kudu, Mr. Hafiz Omoniyi and Mrs. Hadiza Goje-Garba.

It will be recalled that Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi was appointed Bursar on July 4, 2014 for a single term of five years after which she was given a one-year extension by the Council of the University based on her satisfactory performance.

The out-gone Bursar is an alumna of the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. She joined the service of FUT Minna in 1993 as an Accountant II officer.

ACCOLADES AS FUTMINNA MANAGEMENT HOLDS VALEDICTORY SESSION FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Dr. Alhassan enhanced the image, status of the University through the Library - Prof. Bala

In an emotional show of appreciation for a superlative job well done, the Management of the Federal University of Technology, Minna on Wednesday July 29, 2020 held a valedictory session in honour of the out-gone University Librarian, Dr. Jubril Attahiru Alhassan.

The special Management session to commemorate the successful conclusion of Dr. Alhassan's tenure took place at the Council Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking during the brief event, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn expressed gratitude to the out-gone University Librarian for changing the narrative of library administration in the institution during his eventful tenure, adding that the appointment of Dr. Alhassan in

Dr. Alhassan for providing effective leadership in the library and for the unprecedented passion shown in the discharge of his assigned duties.

Equally important, he stated that his insightful input at the Management meetings would be sorely missed.

Prof. Bala disclosed that the commendable volume of full accreditation status recorded by the institution from the National Universities Commission (NUC) can be attributed to the University Librarian, saying that the University has never recorded such huge number of full accreditation in its history, prior to the tenure of Dr. Alhassan.

The University generalissimo stated that the out-gone University Librarian has enhanced the image and status of

detector devices in the facility.

"He has paid his dues to the University. He was not just only the University Librarian but also a father to the Department of Library and Information Technology of the institution. He is also a rallying point for the department because they have a lot to learn and benefit from him," the VC revealed.

Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor advised him to be firm and continue to apply those virtues shown during his tenure as the University Librarian and wished him well in his future endeavours.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka, fcsn, congratulated Dr. Alhassan for successfully rounding off his tenure in good health and sound mind, describing him as a goal-getter and as a religious person.

Prof. Iyaka wished him well in his future plans and urged him to continue to provide fatherly advice to the acting University Librarian whenever he is contacted. Further, he called on him to use his position as an executive member of the Association of Nigerian Universities Librarians to map out strategies on how to access and utilize TETFund intervention funds for library development.

In his speech, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Emeka Udensi described the out-gone University Librarian as a very intelligent person, based on his vital contributions during Management meetings and his impressive running of the University Library which culminated in the number of full accreditations that the University enjoyed during his tenure.

Prof. Udensi urged him to use his

cont'd on page 25



The VC, Prof. Bala (5th from left) in a group snapshot with the out-gone Librarian, Dr. Jubril Alhassan and other Management Staff after the Special Valedictory Meeting.

2014 can be described as a breath of fresh air for the University based on the litany of challenges that the University Library had faced before his appointment which he successfully resolved within a short period.

The Vice-Chancellor also commended

the institution through effective service delivery in the Library and for the innovations brought to bear in the running of the Library, especially the automation of the Library, availability of current e-books across all disciplines and installation of theft

FUTMinna Gets Acting Bursar

The Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna has approved the recommendation of Management of the institution to appoint Mrs. Rebecca Adi Adams as the acting Bursar of the University.

According to a letter released recently and signed by the Registrar of the University, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo disclosed that the appointment is with effect from July 5, 2020 pending the appointment of a substantive Bursar.

Mrs. Adams joined the service of the University as an Accountant II in the Bursary Department in 1992. Through hard work, she was promoted to the rank of Deputy Bursar on October 1, 2009.

She is an alumna of Bayero University, Kano and a Certified National Accountant.



The acting Bursar, FUT Minna, Mrs. Rebecca Adi Adams

cont'd from page 24 ACCOLADES AS FUTMINNA MANAGEMENT HOLDS VALEDICTORY SESSION FOR UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

considerable intellect to make the much needed change in the society without being biased, adding that he should avoid any form of bias if he wants to go places.

Also, the University Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo and the acting Bursar, Mrs. Rebecca Adi Adams took turns to applaud the out-gone University Librarian for the success recorded during his tenure and for being a detribalized Nigerian.

Responding, Dr. Alhassan expressed gratitude to the University Management team for the faith reposed in him and for the support extended to him during his eventful six years as the University Librarian.

He attributed the success recorded in the University Library to the two Vice-Chancellors that he worked with namely; Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji

and the present Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala.

Dr. Alhassan thanked Prof. Bala for always approving all his requests for the Library, adding that he would continue to pray and support the Vice-Chancellor for him to succeed.

“FUT, Minna has given me so much and made me who I am today. I believe in this system and I will continue to work for the progress of the University. My special thanks also goes to all the staff in the Library for their support and prayers,” he disclosed.

In his closing remarks, the newly appointed acting University Librarian, Dr. Abubakar Mohammed Bitagi commended the University Council for appointing him, adding that he would not disappoint the trust and confidence reposed in him.

He thanked the out-gone University Librarian for providing opportunity for staff of the library to further their studies as well as attend both local and international trainings. He disclosed that he would always consult him for professional tips on how to advance the fortunes of the University Library.

It will be recalled that Dr. Alhassan was appointed as the University Librarian on August 2, 2014 for a single term of five years after which he was rewarded with a one-year extension by the Council of the University based on his excellent performance.

Dr. Alhassan is an alumnus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he bagged his Ph.D in Library and Information Science. He was also a former Head of Department, Library and Information Technology and former Librarian of the Federal Polytechnic Bida.

Recently the Federal University of Technology, Minna celebrated its 37th Founders' Day and 29th Convocation Ceremony amidst pomp and utmost gaiety. Here are some exciting pictures taken at the various events to mark the epochal ceremony



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn presenting a certificate to one of the recipients during the maiden VC's Students' awards held at the University Auditorium



Cross section of the University's Principal Officers at the maiden edition of VC's Students' awards held at the University Auditorium



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn presenting a certificate to one of the recipients during the maiden VC's Students' awards held at the University Auditorium



The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle asking a question about a product during the 29th Convocation Exhibition.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala welcoming participants from the Nigeria Army to the 29th Convocation Exhibition.



The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle responding to questions from NTA correspondent during the 29th Convocation Exhibition while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala and others listened with keen interest.



The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala welcoming the University Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) to the Chancellor's Cocktail party held at the VC's Lodge.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala welcoming dignitaries to the 29th Convocation Chancellor's Cocktail party.



The University Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) delivering his address at the 29th Convocation Chancellor's Cocktail party.



The Franciscan Chorale group entertaining guests during the Chancellor's Cocktail party



Mal. Abdulrahman Alfa leading other Council members to the Convocation Square during the 29th Convocation Ceremony held on February 1, 2020.



Cross section of visiting Vice-Chancellors during procession to the Convocation Square.



The University Senate's procession to the Convocation Square



L-R: The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle in a warm handshake with the University Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) during the 29th Convocation ceremony of the University.



Cross section of Deans of School during the 29th Convocation ceremony.



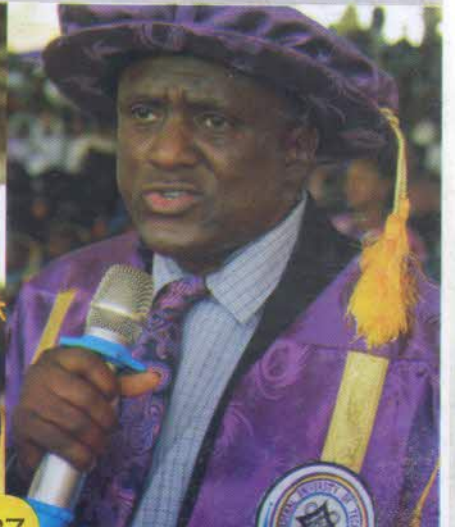
Cross section of some of the University's Principal Officers during the 29th Convocation ceremony.



The University Chancellor, His Eminence Eze (Dr.) Eberechi N. Dick (JP) declaring the 29th Convocation ceremony open.



The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle delivering his address during the 29th Convocation Ceremony.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn delivering his speech during the 29th Convocation ceremony.



The Chairman of Council, Prof. 'Femi Odekunle presenting a prize to one of the graduands during the 29th Convocation ceremony while the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala looks on.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn congratulating one of the Ph.D. graduands, Dr. Abu Ogaji during the 29th Convocation ceremony.

The best graduating student, Ogunfolaji Y. Oluwasegun delivering the 29th Convocation Valedictory speech on behalf of other graduates.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn (right) presenting a souvenir to one of the visiting Vice-Chancellors during the 29th Convocation Ceremony.



The Deputy Governor of Niger State, Alh. Ahmed Ketso delivering the State government address at the Convocation ceremony

The representative of the Visitor to the University, Dr. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) delivering the President's speech during the Convocation ceremony.



The University Registrar, Mr. Amos N. Kolo

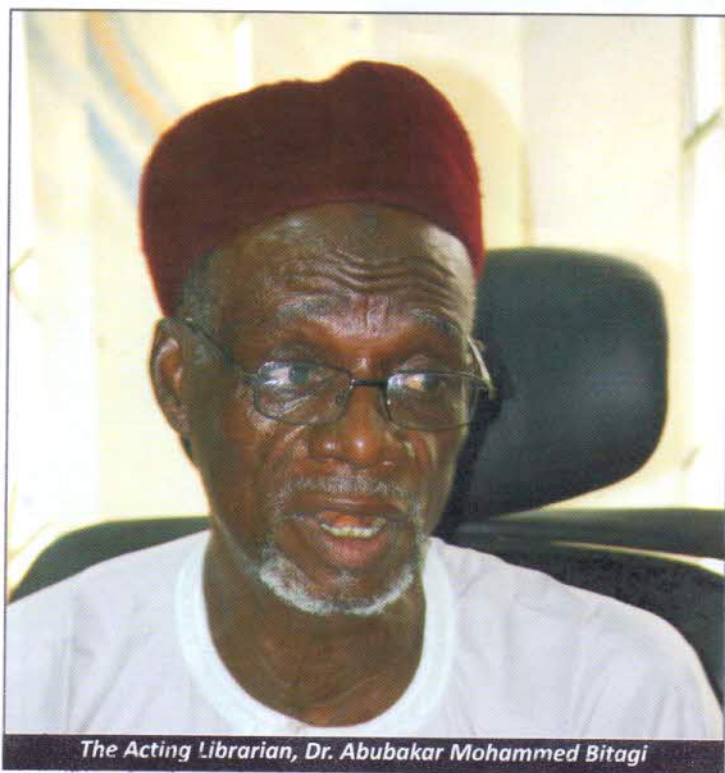


Cross section of dignitaries at the 29th Convocation ceremony



Cross section of joyous graduating students during the 29th Convocation ceremony.

FUTMinna Appoints Acting University Librarian



The Acting Librarian, Dr. Abubakar Mohammed Bitagi

The Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna has approved the recommendation of the Management of the University to appoint Dr. Abubakar Mohammed Bitagi as the acting University Librarian of the institution.

This was made known based on a letter signed by the University Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo and made available to the University Information and Publications Unit.

The letter reads in part:

"I am pleased to inform you that the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, on behalf of Council has approved the recommendation of Management of your appointment as the acting University Librarian of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The appointment is with effect from August 2, 2020 pending the appointment of a substantive University Librarian", the letter stated.

The newly appointed acting University Librarian joined the service of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in 2007. By dint of hard work and impressive records of dedication to duty, he was promoted to the rank of Deputy University Librarian in 2015.

He is a member of the Nigerian Library Association and the National Association of Library Science Educators.

Newly Promoted Associate Professors:

- 1. Dr. Ibrahim Haruna**, Department of Crop Production, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).
- 2. Dr. Okegbile, James Olawale**, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology (SIPET).
- 3. Dr. Agajo James**, Department of Computer Engineering, School of Electrical & Engineering Technology (SEET).
- 4. Dr. Usman, Abraham Usman**, Department of Telecommunication Engineering, School of Electrical & Engineering Technology (SEET).
- 5. Dr. Oluwole, Mathew Sunday**, Department of Transport Management, School of Entrepreneurship & Management Technology (SEMT).
- 6. Dr. Saka, Katamba Abubakar**, Department of Library & Information Technology, School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT).
- 7. Dr. (Mrs.) Ayanwale, Adesola Victoria**, Department of Animal Biology, School of Life Sciences (SLS).
- 8. Dr. Coker, Ayodeji Alexander Ajibola**, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).
- 9. Dr. Malik, Abdulganiyu Ayodele**, Department of Animal Production Technology, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).
- 10. Dr. Ahmed, Okanla Abdulganiyu**, Department of Library and Information Technology, School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT).



Back view of the University Library at the Main Campus

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has granted the Federal University of Technology, Minna full accreditation status based on its impressive performance during the 2019 accreditation and re-accreditation exercises.

This piece of information was communicated to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, vide a letter signed by the NUC Director of Accreditation, Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Sali.

The letter made available to the University Campus News showed that out of the sixteen departments that underwent the NUC accreditation exercise last year, fourteen departments secured full accreditation status with over 80 per cent with maturity date of 2024 while two departments namely; Materials and Metallurgical Engineering and Computer Science got interim accreditation status with maturity date of 2021.

The fourteen departments that got full

accreditation status are; Survey and Geo-Informatics, Geology, Cyber Security, Microbiology, Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology, General Agriculture, Statistics and Geography. Others are; Project Management Technology, Transport Management Technology, Education Technology, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Library and Information Technology.

Responding through a virtual interview with the University Campus News, the Vice - Chancellor, Prof. Bala expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the accreditation results which he attributed to the hard work put in place by all the departments involved.

The VC said the superlative performance of the University was based on his administration policy of ensuring that all its programmes have full accreditation status, adding that the two departments that got interim accreditation also scored above 70

points which was an indication that the departments will get full accreditation status when the NUC accreditation team revisit the programmes by 2021.

He urged those departments that got full accreditation not to rest on their oars rather to work harder to justify Management's support.

Also reacting to the accreditation news, the Director, Academic Planning, FUT, Minna, Prof. Faruk Kuta commended the NUC for their objective assessment of the programmes while assuring them that the University would continue to operate within the tenets of the NUC guidelines and Benchmark Minimum Academic Standard (BMAS).

Prof. Kuta thanked the University Management for their support which necessitated the success of the accreditation exercise. He also applauded the immediate past Director of Academic Planning of the University, Prof. Yusuph Amuda Yahaya for a job well done during his tenure.



The VC, Prof. Bala (5th from left), POs, Dean of PG, Director WASCAL, other Officers of the University and WASCAL students in a group photograph after the visit

In line with the University's quest to boost international students' enrolment and global visibility, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn received in audience the inaugural Ph.D. students for the West Africa Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) Doctorate Research Programme (DRP) in Climate Change and Human Habitat at the Council Chamber, Main Campus.

Prof. Bala congratulated the newly admitted students on their well-deserved admission, adding that the University Management would do everything possible to make their stay in FUT, Minna and Nigeria memorable.

The Vice-Chancellor urged the students to abide with the rules and regulations governing postgraduate programmes in the University while disclosing that FUT, Minna postgraduate programme was one of the most sought after in the country due to the fact that it is well structured with a well-defined time-

frame.

He also commended the Director of the Centre, Prof. Appolonia Okhimamhe for competently and seamlessly handling the activities of the Centre.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of WASCAL Academic and Advisory Board, Engr. Prof. Salawu Sadiku said the purpose of the visit was to introduce the pioneer PhD students of the Centre to the Vice-Chancellor, adding that the visit would enable the students to meet the Vice-Chancellor whom the Federal Government has vested the authority to manage the University.

The Chairman who is also the Dean of the University's Postgraduate school disclosed that the WASCAL programme started with a Master's degree programme but was later upgraded to a PhD status based on the successes recorded by the Centre.

Prof. Sadiku commended the Vice-Chancellor for giving approval for the reservation of hostel accommodation

for the students on Campus, adding that the gesture would assist them to acclimatize with their new environment.

"The students will also be subjected to the normal orientation and matriculation programmes of the University for the students to be up to speed with the rules and regulations governing the postgraduate programme in FUT, Minna", he disclosed.

Giving the vote of thanks, the Director of WASCAL, Prof. Appollonia Okhimamhe expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor and the University Management team for their well-documented support to the Centre.

It will be recalled that the students were also received in Abuja on arrival by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Alh. Mohammed Mahmoud.

The newly admitted 11 students are from Niger, Senegal, Burkina-Faso, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Togo and Benin Republic. WASCAL is a capacity building and research programme funded by the German government.

NUC GRANTS CODEL APPROVAL TO RUN DEGREE PROGRAMME



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala, fsssn

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has granted approval to the Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) of the Federal University of Technology, Minna to run a B.Tech degree programme in Computer Science.

The approval notice was communicated to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, vide a letter signed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed.

The Executive Secretary said the approval was sequel to the validated status recommended by the Panel comprising of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and subject matter experts as well as NUC representatives that visited the proposed Centre in August, 2019.

“The Centre may therefore commence operations with B. Tech. Computer Science programme only via ICT enabled learning model of Open and Distance Learning (ODL)”, the statement

revealed.

The letter further enjoined the University to ensure total compliance with the requirements for running (ODL) programme in Nigerian Universities and that addition of new programmes would be done on a programme by programme basis and subject to pre-assessment as well as approval by the Commission while noting that there would be continuous periodic monitoring by NUC to ensure that there is no deviation from acceptable best practices.

In an exclusive chat with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof.

Bala, expressed appreciation to NUC for granting the Centre approval to commence the programme while assuring the Commission that the University will comply with all the laid down laws governing the running of ODL programme in Nigeria as enshrined by NUC.

Prof. Bala described the approval given to the Centre as a great piece of news and a reward for hard work and sacrifice put in by members of the University community.

“The CODEL project has been in the pipeline for about a decade and the approval is a giant leap towards the attainment of the Centre's objectives as envisioned by my predecessors”, the VC disclosed.

The Vice-Chancellor further stated that the approval will provide the University with a powerful and useful platform for the actualization of its vision for enhanced access to quality university education and also for its drive for

increased diversity as well as internationalization of students' enrolment.

“I want to use this opportunity to congratulate and appreciate members of the University community, especially the Director and staff of the Centre as well as my predecessors, Professors Muhammed Salihu Audu and Musbau Adewumi Akanji, for this achievement. I will also want to caution that we cannot afford to go to sleep. Now is the difficult path and “to whom much is given, much is expected”. We must all join hands to work towards making the Centre an enviable model and unrivalled leader in Open and Distance e-learning”, Prof. Bala advised.

On his part, the Director of CODEL, Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu commended NUC for finding the Centre worthy to run ODL programme in the country, adding that the Centre would work assiduously to maintain a superb standard that the Commission will be proud of.

Prof. Aibinu said the approval was a reward for all the efforts put in place over the past 10 years by all those saddled with different responsibilities by the University Management right from inception of the Centre while stating that the Centre would redefine the concept of ODL programme in the country based on the quality of its course materials and deliverables supported by seamless internet connectivity.

The Director expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala and other Management team of the University for their well-documented support which culminated in the realization of the Centre's desire to commence the programme while also thanking the former Vice-Chancellors of the University, Profs. Audu and Akanji for their contribution to the success story of the Centre.

KUSO-ABDULLAHI BOWS OUT IN BRIGHT LIGHT AS FUTMINNA BURSAR

In the words of Douglas Reagan "A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He/she does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his/her actions and the integrity of his/her intent.

This statement is sorely apt to describe the immediate past Bursar of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi.

Prior to her appointment as the Bursar of the University in 2014, the alumna of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria had served as Deputy Bursar of the institution, with 27 years cumulative experience in the public service, all of which were at the Federal University of Technology, Minna Bursary's Department. She rose through the ranks to become the Bursar in 2014, thereby making her the first woman to take up such a position since the establishment of the institution.

She is also one of the few women who have occupied that position in a Nigerian federal university.



Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi.

To say that her six years' tenure as the University's exchequer was eventful is stating the obvious. This is based on astonishing achievements recorded by the University during the period under review. Her tenure became a fascinating reference for financial transparency, accountability, adherence to due process and prudence, to mention but a few. It is also pertinent to note that Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi made significant efforts in the revamping of the institution's commercial ventures in order to generate an additional stream of revenue to complement the subventions from the Federal Government.

No doubt, her tenure witnessed a lot of innovations which culminated in

the impeccable ease of financial transactions, vis-à-vis prompt settlement of all the University's financial obligations, including staff's claims. Another interesting aspect worthy of mention is the University's compliance to financial guidelines by the regulatory agencies in charge of university finance in the country.

Indeed, it was so superb that the institution was never found to have violated any procedural guideline in terms of funds management and disbursement during her tenure.

The innovations initiated by Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi on assumption of office in 2014 contributed immensely to the impressive accomplishments recorded by the Bursary department during her tenure. Without mincing

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Mrs. Hajara Kuso-Abdullahi.

words, she broke the glass ceiling and became a perfect example of a woman who paved the way for other women in the Nigerian public sector, especially in the area of finance. It is also instructive to note that she brought in a new culture of excellence and honesty to bear in the discharge of her duties as the Bursary of the University. Her commitment and dedication to duty brought immense creativity in the running of the department's affairs.

She remained a thorough-bred professional, a mother to all, a detribalized Nigerian, generous and a remarkable woman of unquestionable integrity throughout her years of service.

One cannot talk about the achievements of Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi without lending a reference to how

she effortlessly migrated the University to the Treasury Single Account (TSA) as directed by the Federal Government in 2015. A feat that FUT, Minna accomplished first among the federal government owned tertiary institutions.

In addition to her superlative performance, she seamlessly championed the digitization drive of most transactions in the Bursary department, especially the Payroll unit with the development of a software for salary payment and payslip distribution to staff, with the support of the University's Information Technology Service (ITS). This innovation saved the University some funds because the job was hitherto out-sourced to an IT firm. Further, this innovation facilitated the prompt distribution

of payslip to staff's emails as and when due.

Equally important, the University's Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) base also experienced an exponential increase due to the creativity she initiated in opening up an additional stream of revenue for the institution as well as blocking all forms of revenue leakages which is one of the Vice-Chancellor's cardinal policies.

It is equally germane to note that many staff of the Bursary department attended a series of trainings to fine-tune their knowledge in the 21st century workplace at local and international levels during her tenure. The impact of these trainings also contributed greatly towards effective service delivery in the department.

Mrs. Kuso-Abdullah is one of the finest accountants in her generation, a consummate professional, an exceptional woman of courage with immense substance and nobility. She will always be remembered for changing the narrative in the financial landscape of Nigerian universities. Little wonder the University Council thought it wise to reward her with a one-year extension in 2019, based on her satisfactory performance in steering the ship of the University's finance.

With all these achievements at the University level, we hope and pray that she would be spotted by the federal or state government for another appointment so that she can bring her wealth of experience to bear in the nation's financial sector which is in a dire need of a thorough-bred financial czar like Mrs. Kuso-Abdullahi.

KUSO-ABDULLAHI BOWS OUT IN BRIGHT LIGHT AS FUTMINNA BURSAR

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As part of efforts to increase access to qualitative university education, the Federal University of Technology, Minna has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.

The signing ceremony took place on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Speaking before appending his signature to the document, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsss, commended the Management of the Polytechnic for opting for FUTMinna despite the distance, saying that such commitment was a demonstration of genuine aspiration that the Polytechnic has for the MoU.

“The fact that the Rector is a product of the Polytechnic also goes to confirm his commitment to the School and the decision to partner with the University. You can never have a person that is better committed than a member of the alumni of that institution. We are happy that we are here this morning to sign this MoU.

We are also here as partners and we will sit down and work together to see how to overcome some issues, with respect to the National Universities Commission's requirements for affiliation programmes between university and polytechnic,” Prof. Bala revealed.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the primary concern of the institution for entering into the partnership is to use such affiliation as a platform to further enhance university degree access for Nigerians, in line with the institution's mandate of community service.

“In the end when we have students coming through affiliation programmes; it

expands our alumni network which is a long-term vision. When you have alumni all over the country, sooner or later the University will begin to benefit from such relationships. It is important that we try to get as many students as possible from different parts of the country because it enhances our national and global profile over time,” the University of Reading Alumnus enthused.

Earlier in his remarks, the Rector, Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, Dr. Dayo H. Oladebeye expressed delight to FUTMinna for accepting to partner with them, adding that the decision to come all the way from Ekiti State to Minna is not to come and play but something very important and dear to the Polytechnic.

He expressed hope that the relationship would be beneficial to both parties, especially now that most institutions are trying to build up their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) base to complement the subventions from the government. He added that the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti has several collaborations with many local

and international institutions, noting that the MoU with FUTMinna is very special and most elaborate in the history of the Polytechnic considering the number of programmes involved.

Dr. Oladebeye assured the Vice-Chancellor that the Polytechnic would work in consonance with the terms and conditions of the MoU.

Delivering the vote of thanks, the University's Director of Collaboration, Affiliation and Linkages (DCAL), Prof. Johnson Segun Oyero expressed confidence that the MoU would usher in a new vista of greater opportunities for both institutions. He thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his support to the Directorate and assured the University's Management that the Directorate would continue to attract collaborations to the institution that would further enhance its ranking as a leading citadel of learning in the country.

The signed MoU is in respect of educational affiliation in the training of manpower in engineering, science and technology.



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a signed copy of the MoU document to the Poly's Rector, Dr. Oladebeye at the event.

FUTMINNA SIGNS MOU WITH BILAAD REALTY NIG LTD



The VC, Prof. Bala (6th from left) in a group snapshot with other dignitaries after the signing of the MoU.

In furtherance of the University's commitment to boost university-industry relations, the Federal University of Technology, Minna has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bilaad Realty Nigeria Limited.

The brief signing ceremony took place on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Bala expressed delight to the company for finding the University worthy of the partnership, adding that the partnership is more gratifying based on the fact that the owners of the company are alumni of the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

"Usually, it is the University that goes out seeking for partnership with the industry but this time round, we are lucky that we are getting this partnership on a platter of gold. It is only possible because they are alumni

of the University; and there cannot be anybody more passionate about the university than the alumni.

"I have had cause to interact with the leadership and membership of the FUTMinna Alumni. I have always reiterated the fact that I am not an alumnus of the University, though I have spent 30 years working for the University but the reality is that I do not have a single certificate bearing FUTMinna. So, I see myself as caretaker rather than anything else because sooner or later, many of us will gradually retire and leave the system. The alumni who have an unbroken umbilical cord with the University should think of giving back to their Alma Mater. That Bilaad Realty is giving back today is worthy of emulation. We have to thank you and appreciate you for this gesture," Prof. Bala disclosed.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that he is always filled with pride anytime he

sees Bilaad Estate and other business investments in Abuja because the company is owned by FUTMinna products and they are good ambassadors of the University.

The University of Reading Alumnus further stated that the partnership with Bilaad Realty is a demonstration of the University Management's efforts towards the actualization of the institution's planned academic immersion programme under the Students Support Service, adding that the partnership would enable the University to foster closer relationship with the industries for the benefits of its students.

In addition, the VC said the core areas of the MoU are of utmost interest to the University in line with its core mandates of teaching, research and community service, while noting that effective community service cannot be achieved without reaching out to the community.

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L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala presenting a signed copy of the MoU document to the CEO of Bilaad Realty Nig. Ltd, Mr. Aliyu at the event.

He reiterated his administration's commitment towards ensuring that students continue to enjoy quality education and service in order to prepare them well for the highly competitive labour industry. He expressed joy that part of the MoU which has to do with SIWES would further address the problem of students not getting a better place for industrial attachment, adding that the University would be happy to know that when students are sent to Bilaad Realty for SIWES; they are in a serious place of business and would acquire more skills.

Equally important, the consummate scholar assured them that the University is highly committed to the tenets of the MoU and disclosed that the head of the Directorate of Collaborations, Affiliation and Linkages (DCAL) and the newly appointed Coordinator of the Students' Support Service would work closely with the company.

Speaking earlier, the Chief Executive Officer of the company, Mal. Aliyu Aliyu commended the University for believing in them which necessitated the

opportunity for them to partner with the University. He expressed optimism that the MoU would enable them to give back to the University for making them who they are today.

The CEO disclosed that the partnership with FUTMinna would change the narrative of university-industry relations in Nigeria and serve as a model for other institutions to emulate. Further, he emphasized that the company would adhere to all the tenets of the MoU.

In his address at the event, the Chief Business and Strategy Officer of the company, Mal. Abdullahi Umar said the MoU is well packaged in view of the need to bridge the gap between the university and the industry, stating that university-industry collaborations to the company goes beyond mere rhetoric. Rather, it stems from the fact that they want to give back to their Alma Mater.

Further, Mal. Umar stated that the operationalization of the MoU would

enable them to prepare the students for industry needs before graduation through the work-place exposure and industrial attachment placement so that they would learn contemporary skills needed to get jobs and survive in the highly competitive industry.

He revealed that through the MoU, students in their final year can pick up a problem in the industry and research on it towards proffering solutions to the problem and that such research would be sponsored by the industry.

The Chief Business & Strategy Officer also

stated that the MoU would enable the company to organize tailor-made programmes for professionals in order to provide a platform for continuous learning as well as inviting experts from the industry to take up some courses in the University.

The MoU covers the following areas; Students Industrial Work Experience (SIWES), internship, employment, holiday work placement and summer schools. Others include curriculum development, knowledge transfer and training opportunities, promotion of entrepreneurship (starts-up and spin-offs) and joint research collaboration.

Giving the vote of thanks, the Director of DCAL, Prof. Oyero thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his support and Bilaad Realty for choosing to partner with the University.

Bilaad Realty is a top-notch and leading company in real estate development, real estate advisory services as well as real estate management in Nigeria.

HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION: FUTMINNA SIGNS MOU WITH GERIA CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

In line with efforts to provide more bed spaces and befitting accommodation for students on campus, the Federal University of Technology, Minna has signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with foremost construction firm, Geria Technology & Construction Limited; the first for the leasing of land and the other for the construction of 20 blocks of students' hostels.

The building project will be managed under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement.

The signing ceremony took place on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala and Geria MD, Alh. Yahaya displaying a signed copy of the MoU

Speaking at the event, the Managing Director of the giant construction firm, Alh. Yusuf Mohammed Yahaya commended the University Management for finding Geria Technology and Construction Limited worthy of the partnership, stating that the company will not disappoint the trust reposed in them.

He reiterated the company's commitment towards delivering a world class students' hostels within the stipulated period, using quality materials and based on the agreed specifications.

"We have a track record of similar projects across many tertiary institutions in the country. We will execute this project with all seriousness and we are ready to mobilize personnel and materials to site immediately after this signing ceremony," he disclosed.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor of

the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, expressed appreciation to Geria Technology and Construction Limited for joining hands with the University to address the problem of shortage of student hostels, adding that investing in students' accommodation requires a lot of passion and commitment to make such investments work.

"This requires a lot of waiting period for return on investment. So, seeing a company indicating interest in this kind of venture, we have to show a lot of respect for them. For the university, we have always placed the provision of student hostels top on our agenda because of the implications of having many students living outside the campus.

"The university has a student population of about 23, 000 but we have hostel bed spaces less than 3, 000, so a vast majority of our students are living off-campus or

living within the community.

Given that most of them are teenagers and young adults, you can imagine some of the challenges we are facing", the Vice-Chancellor disclosed.

Prof. Bala stated that the partnership for the building of the hostels was in tandem with Management's desire to have over 75 per cent of students resident on campus, while noting that the University would continue to attract investments from the private sector for the construction of more hostel accommodation for students.

In addition, the University helmsman revealed that FUT, Minna is committed to the terms and conditions of the agreement and urged the company to equally display keen commitment to the project.

The new hostels, when completed, will provide an additional 3, 616 bed spaces for the University.

FUTMINNA, SHELTER SUITES & HOTELS SIGN MULTI-BILLION NAIRA MoU FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 50-ROOM HOTEL



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala and the MD, Shelter Suites and Hotel, Mal. Faruk Aliyu displaying a signed copy of the MoU document

As part of efforts to provide a conducive ambience for guests of the University and other visitors to the State capital, the Federal University of Technology, Minna has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shelter Suites & Hotels for the construction of a 50-room hotel worth over N1 billion under the Build and operate arrangement.

The epochal signing ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at the Conference room, Hawthorne Suites Area 11, Abuja.

Delivering his address at the well-attended event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala expressed gratitude to Shelter Suites & Hotels for keying into the University's development drive for the construction of a befitting hotel, which he described as the first major investment to be attracted by the institution from any private firm since inception.

He disclosed that the partnership with Shelter Suites and Hotels would also provide an additional stream of revenue for the University to complement subventions from the Federal Government.

"This investment is coming from a bonafide citizen of Minna and Niger State. It is an investment for a project that is in consonance with our desire for the development of the University through the inclusion of private investments into the University revenue stream.

"I want to congratulate Shelter Suites and FUT, Minna for this landmark development and also express gratitude to them for believing in us because it takes a serious firm to agree to invest in a multi-billion naira deal in a University. This project will provide us with a world-class environment for us to host our guests who visit the institution for external examinations, conferences, as well as other guests from town who desire a befitting place of relaxation," the Vice-Chancellor stated.

Further, Prof. Bala expressed optimism that the company would expand the facilities over time based on its antecedents as a world-class service provider in the hospitality industry. He also thanked all the individuals who worked assiduously towards the realization of the deal.

In addition, the University boss said the decision to lead the University delegation from Minna to Abuja for the signing of the MoU was to further demonstrate the institution's commitment to the partnership and to show the acceptability of the MoU to the generality of the University's Management team.

Responding to the Vice-Chancellor's speech, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Shelter Suites & Hotels, Mal. Faruk Aliyu commended the Management team of the University for their acceptance of the partnership, while expressing hope that the facilities would raise the ante of hospitality business in

Niger State and Nigeria at large.

"It is our hope that the facilities will be used also by staff and students of the institution for relaxation. It will also serve as a way for us to give something back to our State, especially in the area of addressing the problem of unemployment and to provide work-place experience for students," the MD disclosed

Mal. Aliyu assured the University's Management of their commitment to the MoU, adding that contractors would be mobilized to site promptly with an initial take-off fund of N1 billion. Furthermore, the Managing Director stated that the project would be completed within 13 - 18 months.

Additionally, he thanked the Shelter Suites & Hotels team for working round the clock to get the necessary papers sorted out for the MoU to be signed and wished the University's delegation a safe trip back to Minna.

Present at the MoU signing from the University team were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Emeka Udensi; the Registrar, Mr. Amos Nmadu Kolo; the acting Bursar, Mrs. Rebecca Adi Adams and the acting Librarian, Dr. Abubakar Mohammed Bitagi.

Others include the Director, Directorate of Collaboration, Affiliations and Linkages, Prof. Johnson Segun Oyero; the Deputy-Director Legal Unit, Mrs. Evelyn Makun and the Deputy Director, Information and Publications Unit, Mrs. Lydia Legbo.

On the team of Shelter Suites & Hotels were; Project Director, Mrs. Udhedhe Olakpe, the General Manager, Hawthorne Suites. Mr. Alain Salameh, the Operation Manager, Mr. Elie Yammouni, the Administrative Manager, Mal. Audu Aliyu and others.

Shelter Suites & Hotels is a leading firm in the hospitality industry in Nigeria with many years of excellent service delivery to customers.

I'M PROUD OF FUTMINNA, SAYS FORMER HEAD OF STATE, GEN ABDUSALAMI ABUBAKAR, AS PROF BALA VISITS



The VC, FUTMinna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn (right) presenting a customized greeting card to the former Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (GCFR) during the visit.

The former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, GCFR, has expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Federal University of Technology, Minna in terms of research breakthroughs, quality of its graduates and contribution to the development of the country.

General Abubakar stated this on Sunday, August 16, 2020 when the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, led the Management team of the University and representatives of the Council on a courtesy visit at his Hilltop residence in Minna, Niger State.

The former Head of State further thanked the University delegation for coming to felicitate with him after his successful medical trip abroad, adding that he is always proud of the University.

He commended the University's Management under the leadership of Prof. Bala for all the milestones recorded by the institution so far and called for more support from staff and

students of the University to the Vice-Chancellor. In addition, he advised them to continue to comply with all the Covid-19 protocols and assured them of his constant support.

Speaking earlier, Prof. Bala stated that the purpose of the visit was for them to welcome him back after his medical trip abroad and to thank God for sparing his life.

"The Federal University of Technology, Minna as usual is always proud to be

associated with you. And our coming here today is to continue to show our appreciation for all of the things you have been doing, especially for being a peacemaker at the local and international levels.

"We know that Nigeria is going through a very challenging time; we are aware of the sterling qualities and efforts you have put in towards ensuring peace in the country. As an elder statesman and citizen of this State, we can never be more proud of you than this," the erudite scholar disclosed.

"We are happy to be the first to welcome you back home; we pray that God will continue to grant you good health," the Vice-Chancellor prayed.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka, fcsn, and Prof. Abdulrahman Salawu Asipita who is an internal member of the institution's Governing Council took turns to deliver Islam prayers while the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Emeka Udensi, FNIP gave the Christian prayer.



The former Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (GCFR)

Prof Bala Calls For Tech-Driven Border Patrol As Immigration Boss Visits



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala with the Immigration boss, Mr. Wase

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMinna), Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has called for the deployment of technological-driven approach to border surveillance and patrol to address the incessant problem of illegal migration into the country.

The Vice-Chancellor gave this advice on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 when the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Comptroller, Niger State Command, Ibrahim Sani Wase, pcc, paid him a courtesy visit at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

Speaking during the visit, Prof. Bala said the NIS should adopt the use of cutting-edge technology gadgets and solutions towards curtailing the problem of border migration in Nigeria, adding that FUTMinna has the capacity to provide technical back-up for the NIS to solve the problem

through the deployment of hi-tech platforms such as geo-fencing, unmanned aerial vehicle and virtual fencing.

The University helmsman stated that the adoption of these technological gadgets would radically improve the performance of the NIS in the areas of border surveillance and monitoring of movement into the country, especially given the fact that we are in the digital era.

"There are certain aspects of technology that we can deploy for you in doing your work when you talk of surveillance and monitoring of borders. The University can do this and many more, based on the fact that we are a leading university of science and technology in Nigeria," the erudite scholar affirmed.

Further, Prof. Bala said the visit was the first of its kind from the NIS since he assumed office as Vice-Chancellor

of the University, even as he stated that it is important for the University to interact with the various stakeholders in the state in matters that affect the socio-economic wellbeing and other matters of human existence due to the fact that community service is one of the core mandates of the University.

"In addition to our core mandates of teaching, research and community service; we also have a core responsibility of also servicing and serving the society. Your coming here today actually gladdens and inspires us. In listening to you, I can see that there are so many things that the University and NIS can come together to work on for the benefits of the country," Prof. Bala enthused.

Meanwhile, the University of London alumnus further informed the NIS boss that apart from the fact that FUTMinna has expatriates and foreign

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students in its ranks, the University often organizes international conferences that require the University to receive guests from other countries in the world as well as grant study fellowship, sabbatical and visitors for the signing of memoranda of understanding, while revealing that there is a need for the University to always keep the NIS abreast.

The VC, who doubles as the Chairman of the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU) informed the NIS Controller that the University would organize a lecture for them to come and sensitize

the University community on their duties, especially in matters of security. He assured them that the University would cooperate and work with them in those areas for the development of the country.

The University generalissimo stated that the University would make plans for admission concession for the NIS to enable their children pursue any degree programme of their choice and most notably for their staff who are willing to upgrade themselves. He disclosed that staff of the NIS who may not have sufficient time to be physically present to attend lectures due to the nature of their work can pursue a degree programme through the University's Centre for Open Distance and e-Learning.

"We are willing and ready to provide that support that we feel will assist you to do your work. I want to thank you for coming and for all the sacrifices you have been making to make sure that Nigeria is secure and safe. We know that it is not easy because Nigeria is a large country and we know our limitations. So, when we see people



L-R: The VC, Prof. Bala presenting souvenir to the Immigration boss during the visit.

coming and putting in their best; the best we can do is to appreciate them and to see how best we can put our widow's mite in supporting and providing some kind of help," the accomplished academia revealed.

Speaking earlier, the NIS Comptroller, Niger State Command, Mr. Wase described the visit as sorely germane due to the fact that the rank and file of the NIS mostly passed through the University which necessitated his decision to visit the institution after meeting with the State Governor.

He thanked the Vice-Chancellor for receiving them.

"We have come to show our appreciation even though I did not graduate from this University. The problem we are having in this country is the gap and perception between University and the society, especially the NIS in terms of our mandate which is beyond just guarding the nation's borders," he stated.

The Niger State Command Controller boss attributed most of the problems in the world to issues of migration,

human trafficking, movement of drugs and other dangerous weapons across borders, saying that all hands must be on deck to address these problems for the development of the country.

"We have more than 1, 000 illegal routes into the country with less than 30 recognized posts. The NIS has about 25, 000 staff to guard the over 4, 000 square meter land mass of the country, excluding the water ways. With all these attendant challenges; we are doing our best to safeguard the nation," he disclosed.

The Immigration boss noted that border surveillance and management are the biggest challenges of the NIS and solicited the University's support to address the issues. He appealed to the University to give admission consideration to some of the NIS staff to further their studies so that they can attain the pinnacle of their careers, as well as assist staff of the NIS to secure admission for their children or wards.

University Land Enroachment: FUTMinna VC Reads Riot Act To Communities, Fulani Herdsmen As New DPO Visits

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala fsssn, has warned communities living within the University's land to steer clear of it and to stop leasing the university land to other people for farming purposes.

Prof. Bala gave this warning on Monday, August 17, 2020 when the new Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Kpakungu Division, Minna, Niger State, CSP. Umar Moh'D Dakingari paid him a courtesy visit at the Senate Chamber, Main Campus.

The VC frowned at the fact that some communities within the University's premises are leasing the land to people from the town for farming purposes after receiving payments, adding that such practices would no longer be tolerated. He urged the perpetrators of such acts to desist before the wrath of the law catches up with them.

The University helmsman stated that the rate at which Epigi (Pompom), Kpaida, Legbe and Lunko communities are encroaching the university's land was giving the institution a serious concern; while disclosing that the University's Management had always believed in peaceful co-existence with its host communities which necessitated the path of dialogue and consultations it had taken with communities concerned for peace to reign.

Specifically, he condemned the attack by some members of the communities on the University staff on their way to the farm, declaring such unprovoked attacks and provocation as unacceptable.

He assured the newly redeployed DPO that the University would not succumb to the heavy-handed tactics that some of the communities are playing and that the University would always explore legal procedures as well as follow all the layers of traditional institutions available in the State to seek redress.

"If we had responded to their provocation, I think by today you would hear that there is no peace in this area. We know the implication of engaging in any violent approach; so we will continue

to explore the process of peace-making and building as a responsible organization.

"We have always made sure that we work towards peace. In fact, since the establishment of the University, we have had a major Committee known as the Campus-Community Communication Committee which is usually headed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration). It is meant at forging peaceful disposition and ensuring that peace and understanding reign between the University and the host community," Prof. Bala revealed.

Equally germane to note, the don assured the new DPO that the University would give him all the necessary support that he needs to succeed in his new assignment, while urging him to continue to discuss with the communities on the need to give peace a chance. He also informed the DPO to look into the issue of Fulani herdsmen who are in the habit of grazing their cattle around the build-up area of the University, thereby destroying plants, crops, newly planted trees and the institution's research farm.

Furthermore, he disclosed that to curtail the menace of the Fulani herdsmen, the University had employed some of them in the vigilante group to re-direct them to the undeveloped areas of the University vast land to graze, even as he

wondered why they would still be constituting a nuisance to the University.

In addition, Prof. Bala disclosed that the University has done a lot for the host communities in the area of corporate social responsibility and community engagement. He directed the DPO to liaise with the University's representatives and come up with action plans on how to address the issues, while stating that the University is a reliable partner when it comes to matters of peace in the community.

Speaking earlier, the DPO thanked the Vice-Chancellor and the University's Management team for granting him audience and assured them that he would continue to champion the need for peaceful co-existence within the areas under his jurisdiction.

CSP Dakingari informed the Vice-Chancellor that he has been meeting with the communities involved and always advised them to follow the path of peace, revealing that he was aware that some people in the communities often instigate others to cause problem.

Nevertheless, he assured the VC that the Police is fully on top of the situation.

In conclusion, he called for more consultation, dialogue, enlightenment and encouraged the University to do more in terms of corporate social responsibility for the host communities.



The DPO, CSP Dakingari, the VC, Prof. Bala (4th & 5th from left) with other POs and Staff of the University in a group snapshot during the courtesy visit

PROF BALA RECEIVES CHAIRMAN BOSSO LGA, HON GOMNA

In furtherance of the University's commitment towards bridging the gap between town and gown, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, recently received in audience the Executive Chairman of Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, Arc. Hon. Abubakar Suleiman Gomna at the Senate Chamber.



The VC, Prof. Bala (middle) and the Chairman, Bosso LGA, Hon. Gomna in a group photograph with Principal Officers and other Bosso LGA Officials shortly after the visit

Speaking during the visit, Prof. Bala expressed appreciation to the Chairman for leading the delegation to the University and congratulated the Chairman on his victory at the polls.

The Vice-Chancellor commended the Chairman for providing purposeful leadership and for changing the narrative of local government administration in the State since assumption of office. He attributed the impressive performance of the Chairman to the fact that he is an alumnus of the University.

Prof. Bala disclosed that the University has concluded arrangements to commence extra-mural lesson for secondary school students within the Bosso community through the use of undergraduate students and some staff of the University as well as to organize ICT training for them on how to use the Computer-based test system for Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

On the entrepreneurship training, the

VC assured the delegation that the University would assist the community in organizing training for the youth through the support of the Central Bank of Nigeria and the National Directorate of Employment.

He solicited for the support of the Local Government Chairman and the Royal fathers in the area of security since majority of the University's students lives within the host community while disclosing that the University is working towards building a permanent Police Post and Clinic for the host community. He assured the delegation of support and cooperation.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman said the purpose of the visit was to familiarize with the University Management as well as to consolidate on the existing relationship between the University and the Bosso community.

Arc. Hon. Gomna also solicited the University's support in the areas of entrepreneurial and ICT training, admission and employment considerations for the teeming youth of

the Local Government Area and other areas which would allow the good people of Bosso community to tap from the University's expertise.

"Beyond the certificate kind of education, we are also interested in skills acquisition programme for our youth so that we can get them off the streets and make them useful to themselves, families and the society at large. On our part as Local Government, we are ready to provide starter packs while the University will provide the training," the Chairman disclosed.

He commended the Vice-Chancellor for the massive construction work going in the Campus and further pleaded that the University should extend its medical services to the host community as part of its corporate social responsibility.

Other members of the Chairman's team to the University were; Councilors, staff of the Local Government Area and other Royal fathers from the Bosso community.

PROF BALA FLAGS OFF ICT TRAINING IN BIDA

● Etsu Nupe Applauds FUTMinna



Participants in a group snapshot with dignitaries after the opening ceremony of the workshop

In line with the University's policy of giving back to the society, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, has declared a free 5-day ICT training open for 100 selected participants from the Bida Emirate Council of Niger State.

The opening ceremony of the training with the theme: Computer Fundamentals and the Internet of Things Overview took place recently at the Department of Office Technology and Management Computer Lab, Federal Polytechnic Bida.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Bala said the training was in line with the University's mandates of teaching, research and community service, adding that the training was the fourth in the series initiated by his administration on assumption of office in 2017.

The Vice-Chancellor who was represented at the event by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yahaya Ahmed Iyaka, urged participants to take full advantage of the University's gesture to learn innovative skills in Information and Communication Technology as well as computer usage while noting that the world is ICT driven and that only those with computer knowledge can break even.

Prof. Bala advised all the Local

Government Chairmen in the Emirate Council to establish ICT training hubs in their respective areas for the training of youth on contemporary issues in ICT and for the sustainability of the programme, saying that ICT has the potential of providing employment opportunities for the teeming youth in the Emirate Council.

He tasked participants to be disciplined and serious with the training in order to earn the institution's certificate that will be given to successful participants at the end of the training while noting that the usefulness of the certificate cannot be overemphasized.

In his address, the Etsu Nupe, HRH. Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, applauded the Federal University of Technology, Minna for organizing the training for youth in the Emirate Council and called on other corporate organisations within the Emirate to emulate FUT, Minna by giving back to their immediate communities.

"We are indeed very grateful to FUT, Minna for this gesture. I have been in Bida for a very long time and corporate social responsibility is not common here. I hope that others will come to our aid by committing part of their resources to the development of their immediate community," the Royal Father disclosed.

The Etsu Nupe who was represented at

the event by Pharmacist Yahaya Aliyu Maiyaki (Mai-YakiNupe-Dodondawa) expressed optimism that the ICT training would provide means of livelihood for the participants and urged them to pay rapt attention and respect the instructors so that they can learn a lot at the end of the training.

Speaking earlier, the Rector, Federal Polytechnic Bida, Dr. Abubakar Dzukogi, represented by the Deputy Rector (Administration), Engr. Dr. Sani Man Yahaya commended FUT, Minna for coming to train youth in the Emirate Council, while expressing the readiness of the Federal Polytechnic, Bida to partner with FUT, Minna in the areas of training and retraining of its ICT staff, research collaboration and other programmes that would be of utmost benefit to members of the Emirate Council.

In his welcome address, the Acting Director, Information Technology Services of the University, Dr. Mohammed Adamu said the training was in line with the University's vision, mission and corporate social responsibility of touching the lives of its host communities through life changing programmes.

It will be recalled that the maiden edition of the ICT training took place in Minna in 2018 for 400 selected secondary schools students across Minna metropolis. It was followed by the Suleja Emirate Council in 2018 and Borgu Emirate Council in 2019.

All the participants were given course manual, writing materials as well as lunch throughout the training courtesy of the Federal University of Technology, Minna. The week-long training held from Monday, 24th to Friday 28th, February, 2020.

After five days of intensive training, exercise finally came to an end with the presentation of certificates to all the participants by some of the dignitaries present at the closing ceremony.



The DBI team with the Director of ITS presenting a Certificate to the VC, Prof. Bala (1st from left) at the end of the training.

The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, (Walin Zazzau, Suleja) has applauded the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) for training staff of the institution on Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme for Tertiary Institutions (ADAPTI) on Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Internet and Office Productivity Tools (IOPTs).

The Vice-Chancellor gave this commendation while declaring the five-day training closed on Friday, August 28, 2020 at the Centre for Preliminary & Extra-Mural Studies (CPES), Bosso Campus, Minna.

Prof. Bala said the training would add value to the University's excellent performance as a leading institution in the country, especially in the area of service delivery. He commended participants for their cooperation with the Instructors, adding that the 97 per cent attendance ratio is a demonstration

of participants' willingness to learn and improve their IT skills.

The don further expressed delight to the resource persons from DBI and the Institution's Information and Technology Service (ITS) Unit for their patience and expertise during the training. He described the sessions as very exciting and practical-oriented, noting that the ultimate objective of the training which was to upgrade their IT skills was achieved.

"We are leaving here happy because we have learnt new things. I also wish to urge all participants to please keep practicing; not just to go home and keep the certificate," the first-rate professor advised.

Prof. Bala also thanked the Director of ITS for coordinating the training and the Director of CPES for making the facilities available for the training.

Earlier in his address, the Manager Research and Publications Unit, DBI, Mr. Chukwuemeka Nzeih expressed appreciation to the University's

Management for the superb hospitality accorded the DBI team, even as he revealed that they are never in hurry to leave the institution anytime they come for training because of the treat given to them by the University.

Mr. Nzeih thanked the Vice-Chancellor for always being early for the training as well as not missing any session throughout the training - a development he described as leadership by example.

"For DBI to have trained the Vice-Chancellor of this great University for five days without the Vice-Chancellor giving any excuse to be absent is an endorsement for us. This will further enhance the profile of

DBI as a top notch IT Institute in the country," he disclosed.

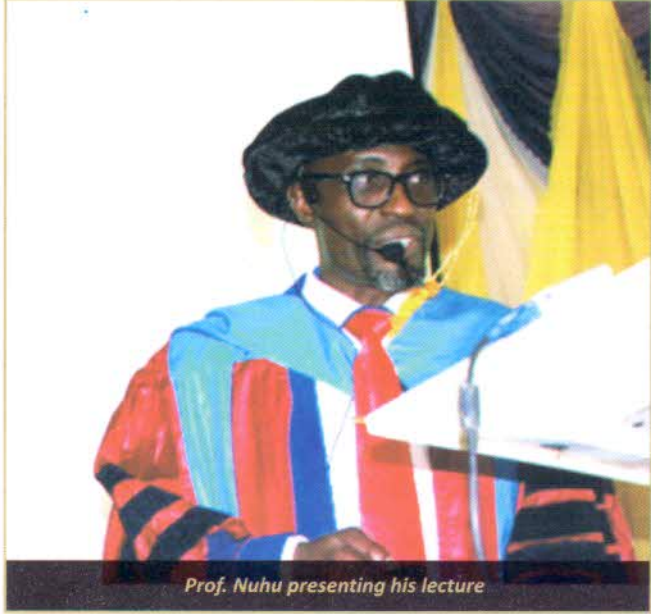
In his remarks, the Director of the University's Information & Technology Service (ITS), Dr. Mohammed Adamu commended all the participants for rounding off the training successfully, particularly the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bala for paying rapt attention through the training without any form of distractions.

Dr. Adamu advised participants to put all what they have learnt into practice in the daily discharge of their duties in the university. He thanked DBI for the training and solicited for more trainings for other staff of the University in the years ahead.

The Director further appreciated the University's Management for always supporting ITS, particularly in the area of capacity-building for staff of the University.

The Director of CPES, Engr. Dr. Mohammed Saidu, Mrs. Hadiza Goje of the Bursary Department, Arc. Isiaka Ahmadu Sezou and Rahmat Yahaya Muh'D on behalf of other participants took turns to narrate their experiences and appreciation to the University Management and DBI for organizing the training.

Prof Nuhu Delivers 72nd Inaugural Lecture



Prof. Nuhu presenting his lecture

Prof. Muhammad Bashar Nuhu of the Department of Estate Management and Valuation, Federal University of Technology, Minna has identified six key structured perspectives under which land administration and land Management can be addressed.

Prof. Nuhu, stated this when he presented the 72nd Inaugural Lecture of the university entitled: Land Safety: How Secured? at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

According to him, Security of Tenure, Access to Land, Land Use, Land Valuation, Taxation and Land Market. Others are, Land Acquisition and Modernization of Land Administration Services.

Speaking on securing land for all Nigerians, the Professor of Estate Management and Valuation stated that the Land Use Act of 1978 is the framework for Land policy and land administration in Nigeria, hence it vests proprietary rights of land on the state; grants rights in land to individuals; and the use of an administrative system in the allocation of rights in land.

This, however, brings about uniformity in laws governing land use and ownership, uncontrolled speculation in urban land, and access to land rights by Nigerians on equal legal basis, and fragmentation of rural lands.

called on the government to respect the wishes of the people of Nigeria to bring an end to the nagging question by appropriately amending the Act.

The don also highlighted that land acquisition and compensation adopted by private developers is by agreement, which is cash based compensation, while government adopts expropriation / compulsory for road construction, parks and service facilities; it is also cash based or replacement compensation. He argued that land cannot adequately be compensated for as the owner loses goodwill as well as businesses and homes.

The lecturer maintained that his contributions to knowledge are predicated on the tripod of land administration. He suggested that with the recent advancement in the use of satellite imagery, especially the Geographical Information System (GIS), as well as Geographical Positioning System (GPS), the issue of land registration should not be that difficult except for the cost of the land.

Prof. Nuhu who was a former Commissioner, Tertiary Education, Niger State, Director of Works, Housing and Transport with the Niger State Local Government Service Commission and vastly knowledgeable in land management matters, called on the federal government to invest in land for

development purposes. He also recommended that some amendments should be made to the Act in order to free it from ambiguities. In addition to providing genuine commitment for full implementation; "there is the need for a review of the Act because of high cost of certificate of occupancy (C of O) and administrative bottlenecks. Hence the need for land reform in order to create effective utilization of land resources in Nigeria," he stressed.

On the RUGA Settlements saga in Nigeria, he explained that the acronym RUGA means Rural Grazing Areas, rural settlement in which animal farmers, not just cattle herders, will be settled in an organised place with the provision of amenities such as schools, hospitals, road networks, veterinary clinics, markets and process units that will add value to meat and animal products. This, he added, is to curb open grazing of animals, reduction of conflicts between herders and farmers, to boost animal production with complete value chain that will increase quality of feeding and access to animal care, increase private sector participation in commercial pasture production, provide job creation and access to credit facilities.

He recommended that RUGA should be inclusive, open and transparent so that the concept would not be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, made known that the lecture is the first in the entire Northern Region to be presented in the field of Estate Management and Valuation. He commended the lecturer for this great feat barely few months after the University Council approved his professorship.

Prof. Bala acknowledged the array of dignitaries that graced the occasion.

Prof Tsadu Delivers 73rd Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Shaba Mohammed Tsadu has suggested the need for training of farmers for the development of aquaculture.

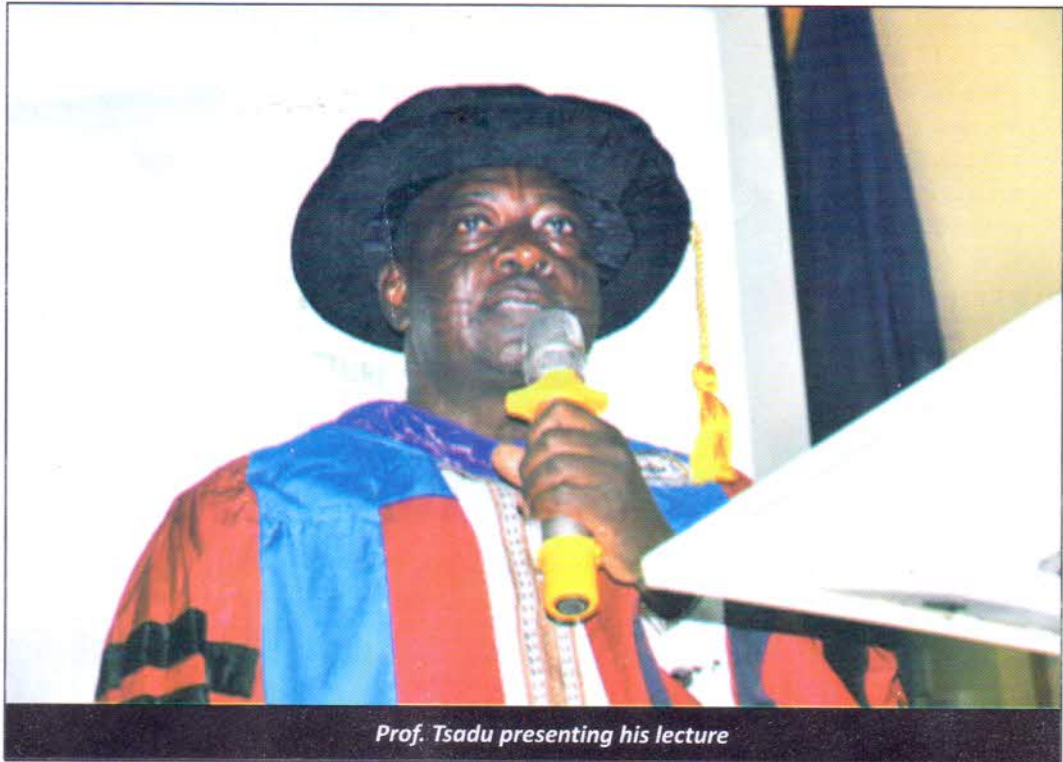
The Professor of Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology stated this recently when he presented the 73rd Inaugural Lecture of the University titled: African Catfish: A Natural Proteinous Choice at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

According to him, African Catfish are naturally best adapted to African climate and are most abundant in the continent than other places. He said they have the potential to supply all the food fish protein requirements of Africans and even worldwide if properly harnessed through intensive aquaculture, adding that aquaculture should be seen to have great potential to contribute significantly to food security and eradicate poverty in Sub-Sahara Africa.

"Food security is crucial to any nation's stability and development as well as a large percent of African's derive high quality protein in their diet from fish at a low cost," he revealed.

Prof. Tsadu stated that aquaculture is now well known in Africa and well established in many countries, however its growth and development is still faced with many challenges which should be removed for it to reach its full potential. He said, efforts should be made to encourage adoption of new technologies to improve production.

The Lecturer who was the former



Prof. Tsadu presenting his lecture

Head of Department, Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology (WAFT), said there is population increase all over Africa and this justifies intensification and diversification of food production ventures and so, aquaculture should be intensified as it has a potential to increase food and financial security of both rural and urban areas.

Prof. Tsadu maintained that there is need for training and retraining of interested farmers and government should provide an enabling environment to promote investment in aquaculture. "The training should also be included in pre-retirement of civil servant and other stakeholders," he added.

The don also called on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and donor nations to participate in aquaculture development through empowerment as they do in other sectors, by empowering farmers, reducing input cost, minimizing market bottlenecks and also fostering efficient information exchange among

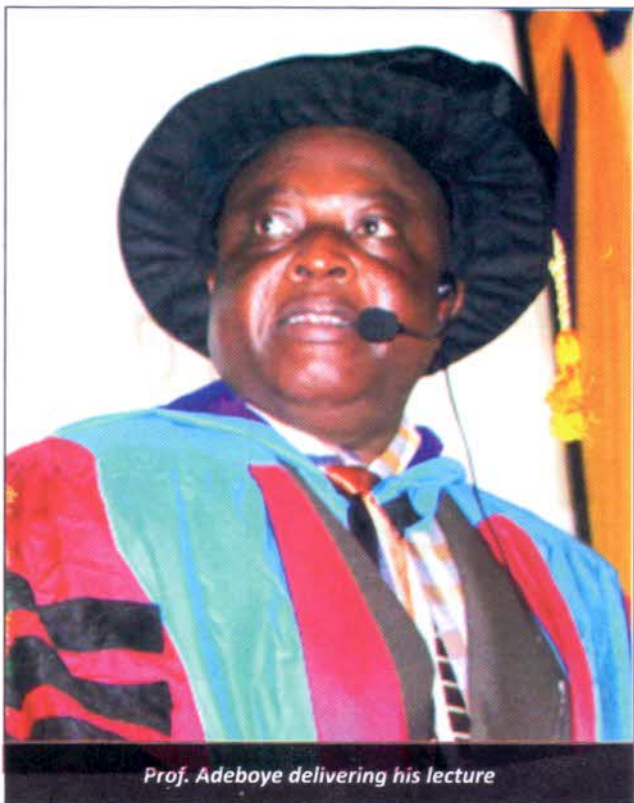
stakeholders.

In his contributions to fishery development, Prof. Tsadu has constructed net hapas for incubation of eggs instead of the traditional spreading of Kakaban or sponges directly in water to incubate eggs, hybridization of the male and female to know the hereditary characteristics collection, preservation and utilization of freshwater, fish farming trainings in Niger State and design of standard modern fish hatchery for the University, Department of Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology.

He said, research in the area of aquaculture development is insatiable, so there should be continuous research to develop new technologies to increase production and better utilization of available natural resources.

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, commended the Lecturer for the lecture and also acknowledged the dignitaries that graced the occasion.

PROF ADEBOYE PRESENTS 74TH INAUGURAL LECTURE



Prof. Adebayo delivering his lecture

Prof. Ma'ruf Kajogbola Adebayo Adeboye has described soil fertility as the capacity of a specific soil to sustain plant and animal productivity within natural and managed ecosystems by supplying essential nutrients and water in adequate and available forms.

Prof. Adeboye of the Department of Soil Science and Land Management made this known when he delivered the 74th Inaugural Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Minna titled: Labour is for the Farmer, Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrition Produce Crop Yields at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The Professor of Soil Science stated that soil is the ultimate foundation of human existence on earth and invaluable to mankind as it provides food, fibre, feed, fuel, and numerous other goods and ecosystem services, adding that soil fertility and plant nutrition are essential to the health and survival of all life on earth.

The former Head of Department explained that the genesis of the soil is rock, which is a mixture of mineral. The weathering of the rock and minerals contained in them initiates the process of soil formation and the release of plant nutrients he added.

Speaking on his contributions to knowledge in the field of soil fertility and its cognate fields, the don said he has contributed immensely to academic development in the field of Soil Science as a whole.

Nitrogen, he said, is an important constraint to maize production in the soils of the Guinea Savanna of Nigeria. The integration by crop rotation of legumes, both grain and herbaceous, into the cropping system was an option to improve Nitrogen, he said. He disclosed that he found that there was higher grain yield of maize when it is rotated with a legume and the residues of the legume are incorporated.

Part of his research was to determine the effects of natural and Aescynomene fallows on soil organic carbon (SOC), soil Nitrogen and grain yields of maize in Minna the result of which showed that both fallows increased SOC content, while only Aeschynomene fallow increased the soil Nitrogen, adding that the conclusion of the study was that both fallows can be used to improve soil fertility, and maize grain yield and 60 kg N H 1 seem to be optimum for maize grain production in the area.

The Professor called for serious attention to be given to soil as one of the major

constraints to achieving the production potential of the soil and restoration of the production potential is the absence of replenishment of plant nutrients. And that, the best strategy to combat this constraint in order to have significant increases in productivity is balanced application of plant nutrients targeted to a specific constraint.

Prof. Adeboye, said that during his sabbatical at the Department of Soil Science, Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero, he produced the prospectus for postgraduate programmes of the department. According to him, the prospectus was approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC), which resulted in the commencement of postgraduate studies in the department during the 2016/2017 session of the University.

He recommended soil testing Laboratories that are well equipped with the latest instruments and equipment and manned by well-trained technologists should be established in every agroecological zone of the country. "The laboratories should carry out soil testing at least once in every two cropping seasons on the soils of the zone, so as to recommend appropriate nutrient inputs for crops that are commonly cultivated in the area," he stated.

In his address at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, acknowledged the array of dignitaries present at the occasion, while thanking everyone for attending the lecture. Prof. Bala mentioned that a notable administrative duties the lecturer had performed in the University was serving as the Head of Department for an extended period of six years, during which he supervised the rechristening of the name of the department to Department of Soil Science and Land Management.

LABORATORY FOR EACH PROFESSOR, PROF MANN RECOMMENDS

Prof. Abdullahi Mann has called on the Federal University of Technology, Minna to design and construct the new School of Physical Sciences Complex at the Main Campus, Gidan Kwano with a laboratory dedicated to each Professor in the School, where they can carry out research and experiment with their students.

The don, who is a Professor of Chemistry made the recommendation when he presented the 75th Inaugural Lecture of the University entitled: Pecking into the World of Secondary Metabolites in Plants: A Tool for Building a Healthy and Wealthy Nation, held at the Caverton Lecture Theatre, Main Campus.

The move, he said, would increase the University's research output that will further elevate its ranking.

Prof. Mann explained that secondary metabolites are hidden treasures, and searching for them has similitude to a woodpecker striking hard to reach out to hidden honey in wooden or rocky cave through a tiny hole. He noted that it will take several days or even months for this to be done, but with requisite skills, determination, patience, endurance and hard work, the feat can be achieved with success.

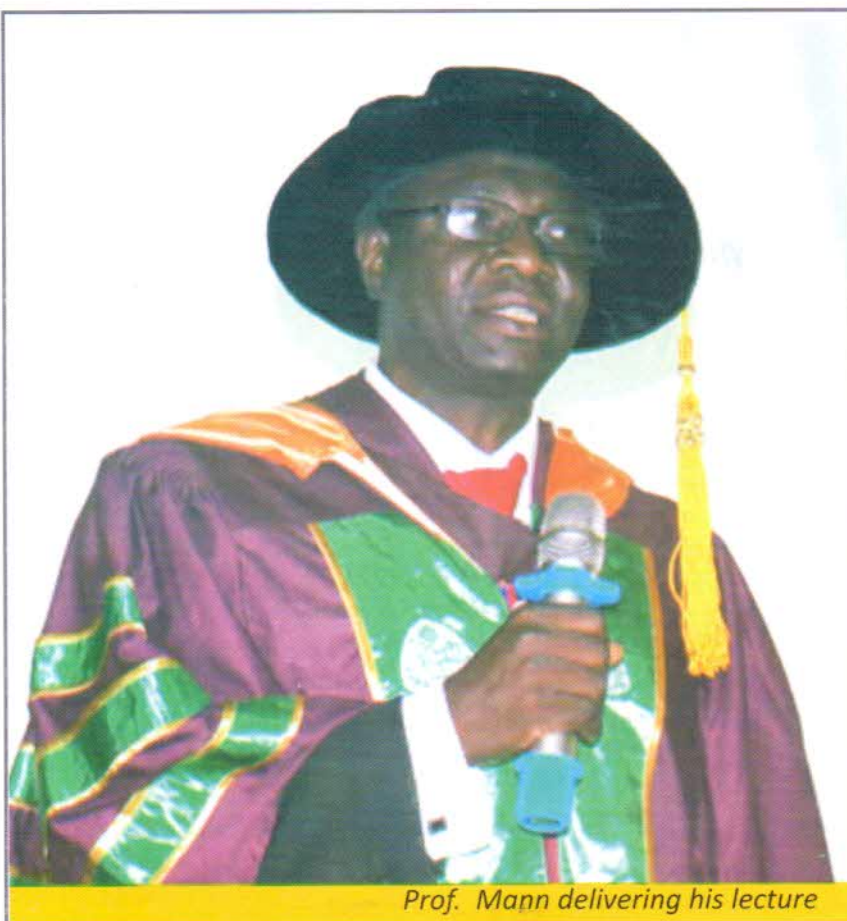
He stated that Nigerian biodiversity has many plant species containing novel secondary metabolites of agronomic and medicinal values, which are yet to be discovered.

Speaking on his contribution to

and water from Fadama farming communities in Minna and Bida.

The don further recommended the need for natural Product chemists to continue to be interested in the chemical structures and bioactivity of the secondary metabolites from the indigenous plants around us.

He called for the sustainable utilization of scientifically approved semi-purified fractions of indigenous medicinal plants as herbal medicine, which he noted, will contribute greatly towards the socio-economic uplift of Nigeria by making manufacturing of herbal medicine a viable venture and simultaneously providing good quality life for all.



Prof. Mann delivering his lecture

knowledge, the lecturer who is the Head, Department of Chemistry revealed that his research in natural products led him to discover antitrypanosomal for the treatment of sleeping sickness, antidiabetics, antimalarial and other pharmacological properties.

He further disclosed that his assessment of pesticide residues in the environment discovered organochlorine and organophosphate residues in the soil

In his address, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn described the lecturer as a successful researcher who combines his productive teaching with research activities. Prof. Bala acknowledged the array of dignitaries that graced the occasion, which included the Etsu Nupe, His Royal Highness, Alh. (Dr.) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, while thanking and wishing them journey mercies back to their respective destinations.

FUTMINNA GETS 9 PROFESSORS

The Council of the Federal University of Technology, Minna at its 140th meeting held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 approved the promotion of the following staff to the rank of Professor with effect from October 1, 2019:

Professors:



Prof. Abdulrahman, Salawu Asipita, Department of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology (SIPET).



Yisa, Tswanya Ananias, Department of Water Resources, Aquaculture and Fisheries Technology, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).

Prof. Jubril Attahiru Alhassan, Department of Library and Information Technology, School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT).



Prof. Evudiovo, Apha Peter, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology (SIPET).



Prof. Umar, Sheshi Isah, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).

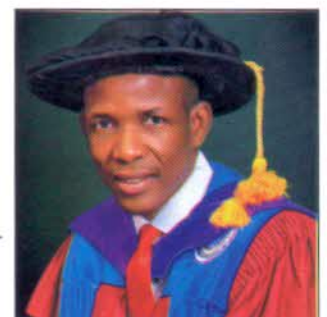


Prof. Nasir Abdulkarim, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Infrastructure, Process Engineering and Technology (SIPET).

Prof. Tsado, Jacob Haruna, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT).



Prof. Abioye, Olabisi Peter, Department of Microbiology, School of Life Sciences (SLS).



Prof. Jacob, John Olusanya, Department of Chemistry, School of Physical Sciences (SPS).

AMBASSADOR GANA DONATES FLOODLIGHTS TO FUTMINNA GOLF CLUB

• Prof Osunde Solicits for More Support

As part of concerted efforts to promote the popularity of the game of golf in Niger State, Ambassador John Gana has donated two sets of mobile solar floodlights to the Federal University of Technology, Minna Golf Club.

The brief presentation ceremony took place on Sunday, June 28, 2020 during a special golf kitty organized for members of the Golf Club born in the month of June.

The session was held at the Club's Golf Course at the FUT, Minna Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Speaking before presenting the items, Ambassador Gana, who is also a member of the FUT, Minna Golf Club Board of Trustees disclosed that he was motivated to make the donation to the Club because of his passion and love for the game of golf, adding that the donation would go a long way in lighting up the environment of the golf course at night during games.

"FUT, Minna Golf Course has saved my life for the last three months of the nationwide lockdown occasioned by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Without playing golf for such period, I do not know what my life would have become. I am enjoying the University golf course and whenever you are enjoying something, you must contribute to its development. Above all, golf is not just any game. Golf is life," Amb. Gana disclosed.

Further, he expressed optimism that the course would become an academy where students and kids will come to learn how to play the game and graduate from being amateurs to professionals, just as it is being done in

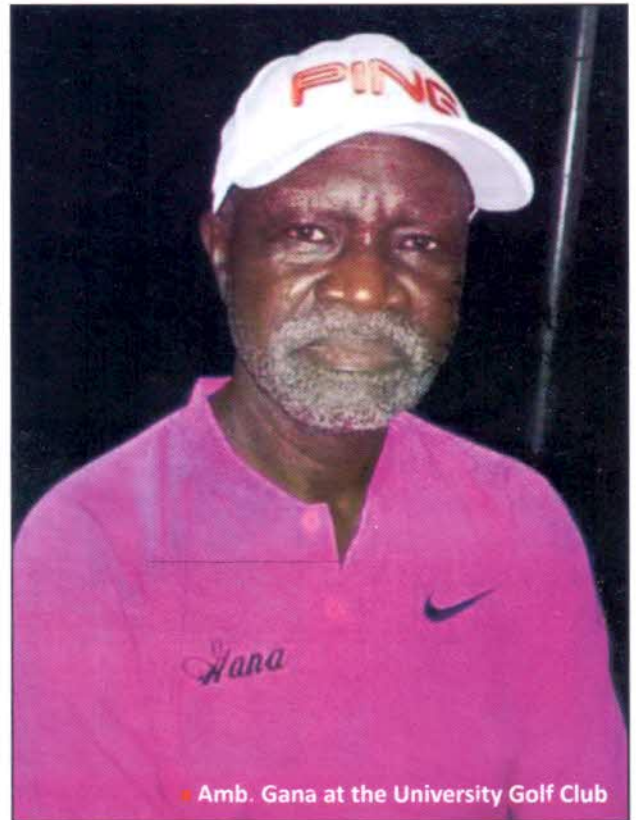
other climes.

He urged the University Management to continue to support the Club in the maintenance of the green surface of the course and the tee boxes, while expressing hope that the course would be expanded to a full-fledged one that would be used for a amateur or professional tours.

Responding, the Captain of the University Golf Club, Prof. Akim Osunde expressed appreciation to Ambassador Gana for always supporting the Club, saying that the donation of the floodlights would further boost the profile of the game in the University and Niger State at large.

Prof. Osunde, who was represented by the Vice-Captain of the Club Prof. Segun Oyero stated that the University Golf Club has benefited immensely from the support of Ambassador Gana since he started playing golf on the golf course, ranging from donation of golf balls, sometimes footing the bills for the maintenance of the course and highly talented golfers to turn professional.

Prof. Osunde, who was the former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University, commended Ambassador Gana for showing



• Amb. Gana at the University Golf Club

leadership and for his act of magnanimity, while assuring him that the items would be judiciously utilized.

The don of Soil Science appealed to other generous-spirited individuals and organizations to emulate Ambassador Gana's gesture by coming to the aid of the FUT, Minna Golf Club, especially towards making its course the best in the state and the country at large.

It would be recalled that the University Golf Course was constructed and inaugurated in 2007 during the tenure of Prof. Hamman Tukur Sa'ad, abandoned since 2012 but resuscitated in 2018 by the present Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn.

JUBRIL, FUTMINNA VC'S SON, QUILTS BACHELORHOOD

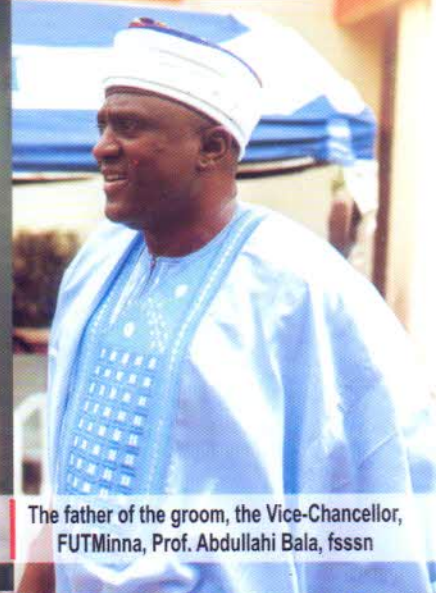
Engr. Jubril Abdullahi Bala, one of Niger State's most eligible bachelors and son of Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn, Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, on Friday, July 3, 2020 bade farewell to bachelorhood. Below are some of the exciting pictures taken at the event held at the Paiko Central Mosque, Paiko, Niger State.



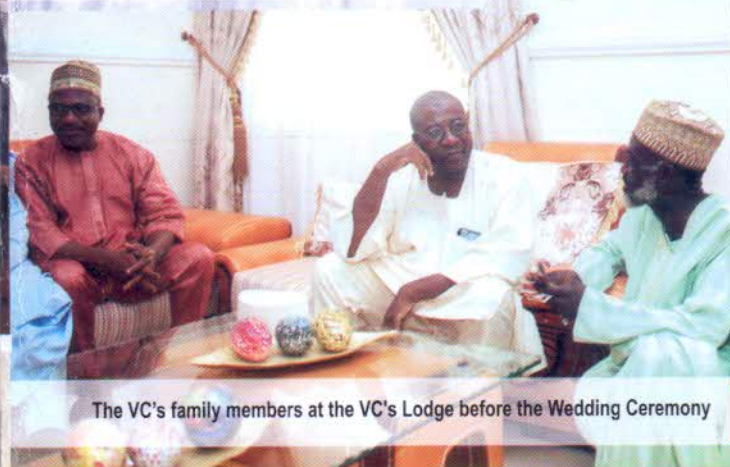
The Couple



The groom, Engr. Jubril Abdullahi Bala



The father of the groom, the Vice-Chancellor, FUTMinna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fssn



The VC's family members at the VC's Lodge before the Wedding Ceremony



The father of the groom, the Vice-Chancellor, FUTMinna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala (3rd from left) in a group snapshot with some guests at the Paiko Central Mosque during the wedding ceremony



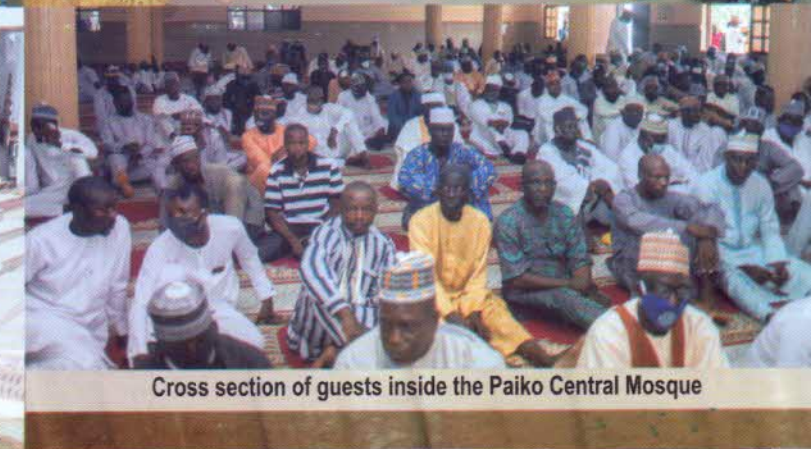
The groom, Engr. Jubril Abdullahi Bala(5th from left) with friends at the wedding reception



L-R The Registrar's wife, Mrs. Kolo, the VC's Secretary, Mrs. Mary, VC's 2nd wife, Haj'a Amina Bala, the groom, Engr. Jubril A. Bala, the groom's mother, Dr. (Mrs.) Talatu Bala, former Registrar of FUT, Minna, Mrs. V. N. Kolo and the Prof. Mrs. Z.D. Osunde in a group snapshot



The VC, Prof. Bala, Engr. Jubril A. Bala (3rd & 4th from left) in a group photograph with the University's Management team at the Paiko Central Mosque



Cross section of guests inside the Paiko Central Mosque



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