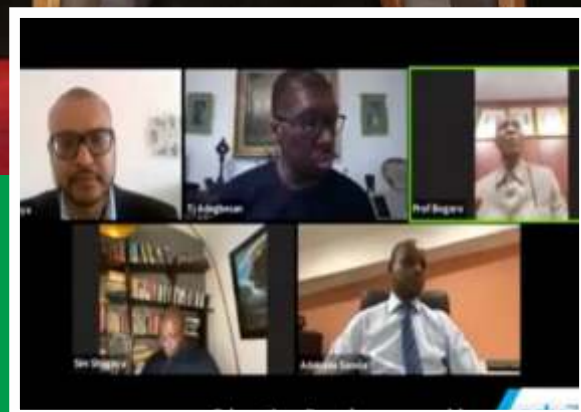


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OUR VISION

To be a world-class interventionist agency in Nigeria's Tertiary Education

OUR GOALS

- To continuously improve Education Tax Revenue by ensuring that the tax is collected and made available for TETFund intervention programmes.
- To deliver appropriate and adequate intervention programmes with due regard to the sensitivities of beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- To promote cutting-edge technologies, ideas and organizational skills in education, and ensure that projects are forward-looking as well as responding to present needs.
- To ensure successful completion of intervention projects.
- To form a viable and enduring partnership between the TETFund and its stakeholders.
- To manage Education Tax in a way that is most beneficial to the Nigerian people.
- To recruit, retain, train and retrain a highly motivated workforce.
- To plan, undertake research and create reliable data bank for improvement of education in Nigeria.
- To ensure accountability and transparency in all its undertakings.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Within the first quarter of the year 2020, the unfortunate event of the COVID-19 Pandemic slowed activities around the globe and Nigeria was not spared either. As the situation became a lot better, given concerted efforts of government and also from many healthcare quarters to keep the virus at bay, activities picked up to brighten the hitherto gloomy atmosphere.

At Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), a foremost interventionist Agency to be reckoned with, not only in Nigeria, but in the African continent, activities picked up with moderate speed as the man at the helm of affairs, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro was eager to keep the flame burning, with regards to realizing his vision on institutionalizing Research and Development (R&D) as a launch pad to drive national development with emphasis on problems solving research.

In this Special edition covering activities from the month of July, August, September and October, there was a flurry of activities ranging from courtesy visits from beneficiary institutions, House Committee on ICT, Governors of Kogi, Kwara, Ebonyi States, clients from the private sector, intending partners, research institutions, the military, presentation of allocations to some selected Professional Associations for Journals under the TAG purview and of course celebration of one of our own who retired after a meritorious service at the Fund, in the person of Mrs. Briggs Ngoba. She retired as the Director, Public Affairs of TETFund amidst glowing tributes to mention but a few.

The Management of the Fund, as well as the Board of Trustees (BoT) members also made several visits to some beneficiary institutions in Oyo, Bauchi and Taraba States to commission and inspect array of completed and on-going projects fully funded by TETFund.

However, top on the list of activities in the period under review to a large extent are tilted towards activities of Research and Development, which is at the crux of the new paradigm shift projected by the Chief Executive of TETFund, Professor Bogoro who has earned the title of Senior Advocate of Research (SAR), with maximum support from President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR. Before now, Bogoro was like the lone voice advocating for the institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria, but with his steadfastness and zeal to make this achievable in Nigeria within a short period, many Nigerians from many walks of life are keying in and ready to take that course. Pursuant to his efforts on R&D, the Board of Trustees approved the recent inauguration of a 164 member Research & Development Standing Committee (RDSC) comprising some of Nigerian's best brains drawn from varied disciplines from the Academia, Research Institutes and Private Sector. The RDSC has been charged with the task of driving this research agenda with the ultimate desire of an establishment of a National Research & Development Foundation (NRDF).

The drive towards the paradigm shift on content intervention has suddenly made the Fund the beautiful bride that everyone wants to court. This is evidenced by the retinue of requests for partnership from many MDAs and Private institutions both home and abroad some of which are the Federal Ministry of Science & Technology, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research & Development, Defence Space Administration, DICON, Defence Research & Development Bureau, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and a host of others.

These are all interesting reads with beautiful pictures adorning the pages for readers' delight.

Thank you and happy reading.



ABDULMUMIN B. ONIYANGI
Ag. Director, public Affairs

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Heralding A National Re-birth Through R & D



Minister of State for Education, Mr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba (left) and Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro

The pivotal role of Research and Development (R&D) in every aspect of human life cannot be over emphasized. Countries that have progressively advanced in technologies and innovations are known to have devoted reasonable amount of resources from their annual budgets to finance problem-solving researches, in alliance with industries and the academia.

Unfortunately, in Nigeria, the role of R&D as a fulcrum in achieving economic development has received minimal attention. The little efforts at conducting research by the academia has been at a basic level for promotion and published research articles never leave the shelves; while industries resort to foreign and readymade research outputs to advance their innovation.

This trend is gradually changing as Nigeria is taking a new dimension into problem-solving and innovative research,

necessary to advance the national quest for development and self-sustainability. This is what other of its contemporaries have done and are still doing to take advantage of R&D advance in technology.

Never in the history of Nigeria has R&D received huge attention as it is receiving now, through the efforts of one of Nigeria's R&D advocate and the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro. This has been his vision; to institutionalize R&D in Nigeria as a means of driving technological development and innovation that would generate solutions to most of the challenges facing the country. With the support of President Muhammadu Buhari, Professor Bogoro and the Board of Trustees of TETFund, have left no one in doubt that Nigeria needs to refocus on R&D and that TETFund is leaving no stone unturned to ensure they do it right.

This was why on the 24th of September, 2020, a 164-member TETFund Standing Committee on Research and Development, made of some of the best brains from the academia, industries and the private sector in Nigeria were converged at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja to answer the national call of spearheading the R&D the game changer in national development. The congress hall was filled to the brim with dignitaries to witness the landmark occasion, which saw the inauguration of the Standing Committee on whose shoulders rest the huge assignment of great national importance.

Addressing the gathering, Professor Bogoro reiterated that the primary purpose of the gathering was to officially inaugurate the Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) approved by TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT) which will redefine the focus and drive a paradigm shift in the R&D enterprise. For far too long, there has been a palpable and worrisome disconnect between the academia and industry such that research in our tertiary institutions had become merely a tool to climb the academic ladder. For industry, it was more convenient to shop for innovations and the results of research findings in other climes outside the shores of Africa. This unpatriotic and unproductive orientation, offends one of the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) which identifies traditional and indigenous people as the centre of development”.

For Professor Bogoro, it is only necessary that TETFund reciprocates the support and vision of President Muhammadu Buhari in increasing the National Research Fund (NRF) by 50 percent from N5 billion to N7.5 billion by hitting the ground running to ensure R&D not only remains at the front burner of all national agenda, but generates the desired result in no distant time.

“Thanks to Mr. President for his vision, and so the least we can do is to reciprocate this gesture by engaging in the R&D expedition that will result in goods and services that responds to our national aspiration and mitigate our national challenges, including the unfortunate insecurity situation in the country.

“Appropriately, therefore, the main aim of gathering some of Nigeria's best brains at home and in the diaspora to drive our Science, Technology and Innovation cannot be faulted. We at TETFund believe that nothing should be spared in pursuing a deliberate investment in R & D as it remains the most potent strategy to pilot the affairs of this country towards sustainable development and global competitiveness.

“Our shared vision in delivering on this national assignment is the mainstreaming of R&D as the catalyst of inclusive growth and sustainable development of Nigeria's knowledge economy. Together at RDSC, we are on the mission of Institutionalization of R&D as the driver of Nigeria



21st Century development agenda within the context of triple helix model and more importantly quadruple helix model where the society becomes the fourth pillar of development agenda.

“The main goal of RDSC is therefore “Fast tracking Nigeria's global competitiveness in product development and service delivery by leveraging innovation systems led by R&D”, the Executive Secretary pointed out.

He called for a galvanized vision towards making for an appropriate law to support the establishment of a National R & D Foundation (NRDF) geared towards a robust institutional framework and arrangement for the NRDF. He made a recommendation of a minimum annual budgetary threshold of One billion USD (\$1b) as the funding portfolio for this Foundation. This amount he said might appear huge now, but it is still like a drop in the ocean, considering increasing population of Nigeria, which has been projected to be doubled in the next 10 years.

“This recommended seed money of \$1b should be considered as a necessary incentive by government to kick-start the activities of the NRDF. It is envisaged that the Private sector of the economy should pick up the gauntlet to steamroll the lofty initiative by taking ownership of it.

“The fact must not be lost that the ETF (now, TETFund) innovation has become the magic wand that has transformed both the landscape and skyline of public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria,” the Executive Secretary explained.

Also speaking at the inauguration, Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu enjoined the members of the Standing Committee to accept the task as a national assignment, which will herald a rebirth of Nigeria as a nation. He was represented by the Minister of State for Education, Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba. Malam Adamu noted that Nigerians are looking up to them, having been given the mandate to help in transforming



A cross section of some members of RDSC during the inauguration

the aspirations of the masses for a better society.

“Nigerians voted us into power predicated on our being able to transform our national aspirations and make them a national achievement. It is in recognition of this direction that the Executive Secretary, TETFund, presented his vision of a research-driven nation and how to finance that ambition through the Board of Trustees (BOT).

“To a large extent, Nigerian's future depends on you. You have been summoned to a national service that is not available to the rest 200 million population. It is a national calling that requires almost all of you,” he said.

In his response, Chairman of the TETFund R & D Standing Committee, Professor Njidda M. Gadzama pledged that the committee would carry out the national assignment with dedication and desired commitment. The committee had a week-long time-frame during which they were expected

to deliver on the following major items:

- Conceptual framework for establishment of R&D foundation in Nigeria
- Strategic planning for the institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria for economic diversification, global competitiveness & knowledge economy
- Development of road map & work plan on the establishment of R&D Foundation
- Propositions on the funding arrangement & implementation strategies - R&D for Nigeria's knowledge economic development and establishment of NRDF
- Institutional and Legal framework, Agenda setting & Policy review - Institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria
- High Profile Cross cutting discussion & Draft Reports presentation

Thirteen sector-based thematic areas were also identified by the Committee for research attention as follows:-

1. Agriculture (including

Climate Change, Food Security, Food Science and Technology, etc.)

2. Environment and Bio resources
3. Medicine - One Health (Human, Farm Animals, Wild Life, etc.)
4. Pharmaceuticals
5. ICT/Digital economy
6. Petroleum/Fossil resources, Solid minerals and Mining
7. Industrialisation, Manufacturing Trade and investment & Economy
8. Engineering, Technology and Mineral science development
9. Infrastructure development
10. Education
11. Energy
12. Governance, Social development and Internal security
13. Defence and Military

With these galvanized efforts of stakeholders towards driving R&D as a catalyst for national development, the Committee is expected to drive TETFund's intervention policy in public tertiary institutions towards the nation's economic and technological competitiveness.

NSA, COAS Throw Weights Behind TETFund's Call for Establishment of National R&D Foundation



L-R: Coordinator, Defence and Military Subcommittee of RDSC, AVM Onyemaechi Osahor; National Security Adviser (NSA), Maj. Gen. Mohammed Manguno (Rtd); member of the committee, Maj. Gen. Victor Ezugwu; Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and Chairman of RDSC, Emeritus Prof. Njidda Gadzama during the meeting with the NSA

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Major General Mohammed Manguno (Rtd) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai have thrown their weights behind the call by Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for the establishment of a National Research and Development (R&D) Foundation to ensure sustainable funding of research and human capital development in the country.

The two security chiefs pledged their support while meeting separately with the Executive Secretary of TETFund and Convener of the Fund's Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC),

Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro who led members of the Defence and Military Subcommittee of RDSC on courtesy visits to their offices in Abuja recently.

Speaking during the meeting with the Executive Secretary in his office, the NSA emphasized the importance of R&D to national development and added that there was need to apply problem-solving research in harnessing the natural resources and potentials of Nigeria to solve its problems.

He commended the Executive Secretary for his initiative in convening the RDSC as well as his call for the establishment of a National R&D Foundation to

solve the challenges of research funding in the country and assured that he would submit a report on the matter to President Muhammadu Buhari and also reach out to relevant authorities that would help facilitate the process.

"Most of our institutions have been trying but they have not been able to achieve much because they have been cash-strapped, whether it is TETFund or DICON; and I can understand that it relates to the problem we are facing in terms of capacity; not because we do not have the intellectual endowment or the commitment to do Research and Development but surely

because there is an impediment of insufficient funds.

"I, as the National Security Adviser want to commit myself to ensuring that your take-off is assisted. In the report I am going to submit to Mr. President, I will emphasize the urgency in addressing this problem.

"In my office, since it has this panoramic view of what is happening and it can interface not just within the Defence and Security community but also with the wider public service and larger Nigerian society, I will see whatever I can do to support.

"I also want to assure you that this office has some of the best, brightest and most competent staff both within the civilian and military; and we all have the same vision and trajectory in dealing with this problem. So I want to assure you that the entire Office of the National Security Adviser will be working as one united entity to ensure that Research and Development is the basis for which any Country can reach the Promised Land in the 21st century," he said.

Also speaking at the meeting, the Executive Secretary of TETFund on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Management of the Fund; expressed appreciation to the NSA for his expeditious acceptance to receive the committee in his office.

While reiterating the importance of R&D in solving the problems of society, technology, economy, defence and security in Nigeria, he highlighted some of the



L-R: Chief of Army Staff, General T.Y Buratai, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Air Doctor, Nigerian Army, General N.E Angbazo, during an official visit by TETFund delegates to Nigerian Army Defence Headquarters, Abuja.

Fund's efforts in supporting research in the country and expressed hope that the RDSC assignment would eventually culminate in the establishment of a National R&D Foundation.

In his remarks, the Chairman of RDSC, Emeritus Prof. Njidda Gadzama stated that the Defence and Military Subcommittee was mandated to develop a model to institutionalize Defence R&D through need-oriented research in collaboration with research institutions and industries and sought the support of Major General Monguno in actualizing the objective.

Also speaking at the meeting, the Coordinator of the Defence and Military Subcommittee, Air Vice Marshal Onyemaechi Osahor gave a rundown of the workings of the subcommittee, emphasizing the importance of R&D in military operations and solicited for the NSA's advice and support towards the project.

In his meeting with the Executive Secretary at the Army Headquarters in Abuja, the

I also want to assure you that this office has some of the best, brightest and most competent staff both within the civilian and military; and we all have the same vision and trajectory in dealing with this problem. So I want to assure you that the entire Office of the National Security Adviser will be working as one united entity to ensure that Research and Development is the basis for which any Country can reach the Promised Land in the 21st century,

Chief of Army Staff pledged the support of the Nigerian Army to TETFund in its drive to institutionalize R&D in the country for the purpose of building a knowledge economy.

Lt. Gen. Buratai expressed the passion of the Nigerian Army for R&D and revealed that a number of innovations have been carried out by the Army.

The commitment of the Nigerian Army to R&D, he said, is evident in the establishment of the

Department of Innovation and Transformation which he added has participated in R&D exhibitions, seminars and workshops both locally and internationally.

The Army Chief commended the efforts of TETFund on R&D and other interventions and promised to lend his voice in support of the establishment of a National (R&D) Foundation being advocated by the RDSC.

Speaking earlier at the Army Headquarters, the Executive Secretary of TETFund expressed the need for the Nigerian Army to intensify research on defence, innovation and technology, noting that the military sector of any nation cannot proceed in the 21st century by protecting its citizens through any other means except by injecting innovation, which is perfected through R&D.

Prof. Bogoro disclosed that the RDSC had vice chairmen drawn from the Industry, Academia and Government in line with the Triple Helix Concept and noted that the establishment of a National R&D Foundation would provide for the sustenance and implementation of R&D, as well as promote an effective interface between universities, government and the private sector.

For too long, he said, the Academic community has been working solitarily and must join hands with both industry and government collaboratively towards building a knowledge economy.

Defence Space Administration Solicits TETFund's Assistance to Achieve Mandate

The Defence Space Administration (DSA) has solicited for partnership with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to enable it deliver on its mandate.

manpower development on spacecraft engineering, seminars for development on space craft, cyber security and space science and technology.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) with the Chief of Defence Space Administration, Major Gen. EG Whyte; during a courtesy visit to TETFund

Chief of Defence Space Administration, Major General Emmanuel George White disclosed this when he led some members of staff of the agency on a courtesy visit to the Fund recently.

While disclosing that DSA is collaborating with the Nigerian Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT) on satellite segmentation system, Major General White stated that the Administration was also looking forward to working with TETFund in the area of technical

In addition, he noted that one of their mandates is to build a school for Defense Space Administration as there is non-currently in the country.

"We are hoping if we are able to partner with TETFund, we can also push that forward so that the school can be a facility to broaden space science and technology in the country and spread that knowledge," he said.

In his response, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof.

Suleiman Elias Bogoro thanked the delegation for the visit and assured of the Fund's support.

He expressed delight on DSA's partnership with the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT)

and other institutions, noting that AFIT is a direct beneficiary of TETFund that competed in the last National Research Fund (NRF) grant in which a total of 128 research grants were approved and it recorded one of

the highest.

The Executive Secretary expressed happiness that DSA has put in its application, through the Concept Note for the NRF grant and hoped for its success.

TETFund: The Story So Far...

In this interaction with Lagos Television (LTV), the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro talks about the Intervention Mandate of the Fund, E-Learning Migration and Content Development in Nigerian Higher Institutions

So far, how fulfilling is the intervention mandate of TETFund?

At my stint, I had my vision. Six prong vision to raise TETFund's intervention profile and impact from where it was, as much as possible to higher levels; and somehow, it was aborted by my disengagement in February 2016. But mercifully, the issues that led to my engagement were reviewed by Mr. President, on request and I was cleared on all accounts of the issues and that's why I was reinstated; and it's on record that what excited me most was the reception I received with my staff when I returned. I return the glory to God; and it is very obvious that my reinstatement was at the recommendation of the Honorable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu. And as he told me, we decided to request Mr. President to reinstate you to come and continue the good work.

Well, for me yes, I had plans, vision, and a roadmap to raise the level of intervention of TETFund beyond what was known at that time up to the time



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, fielding questions from Journalist in Abuja recently

I was disengaged. And it is recalled, and it's a fact anyway that TETFund is an intervention agency. There are a number of intervention agencies in Nigeria, but today I'm proud to be associated with a unique; I would call it reference that TETFund has earned. It is said that many African countries come to Nigeria to learn the successful intervention model of TETFund, what is the secret? And it may interest you to know that even within this country, a number of agencies that I don't have to name, have come to quietly ask, what is it you're doing that is different.

I can tell you one thing, we need to reflect over the emergence of what is today TETFund, but it was originally Education Trust Fund (ETF), Education Tax Fund originally in 1993 after it came into existence by law. But by 1998, it was changed to Education Trust Fund and of course, well, the monies collected were applied, but it appeared sparingly because there were too many beneficiaries, many of them undeservedly so, including the basic sub sector. There was no reason and justification for money from Education Trust



An aerial view of Muhammadu Buhari Main Library Kwara State University,(KWASU), Malet, Kwara State

Fund to be applied to the basic sub-sector when there is UBEC, because UBEC applies 2% of consolidated revenue in the basic sub-sector. So, there was no justification. Indeed many other institutions including some monotechnics etc., even Law schools were benefitting. But once it was decided, and by 2011, the name changed from ETF to TETFund, focusing more exclusively on the tertiary education sub-sector but more importantly, the public. And it has to do with the original concept that remains justifiable, that majority of students in our universities, up to 94%, as at the last count and figures issued by National Universities Commissions, are in the public Universities for instance. And so you can imagine that you just talking about less than 6% or just about that, for all the private universities when their number is about equal to that of the public. So, there still remains strong justification for that, and in many countries we say some presidents lose elections, because they are not applying or investing adequately in public education; in UK, US, call it, any

other part of the world. Because it is the public educational system that caters for the majority, but more importantly the less privileged sector of society and that was the original

Look at it this way, when the case was made for ETF anyway, originally, there were virtually no visible respectable infrastructure that would say they are those of universities. It was at that time said that universities were glorified secondary schools, but we thank God with the application of the funds particularly from 2011, you and I will agree, like you said, you are trying to help TETFund

through your media for publicity of what we've been doing, but you know what? Our interventions have been self-publicity themselves. Go physically to any of the public tertiary institutions today, you may as well rename them TETFund Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges, because of the impact.

But more recently, we say yes, we've put up a lot of physical infrastructure; even in that respect we know there are still some deficits. Precisely last year, a case was made for more funding for hostels, because if Nigerian universities, for



Academic Building Ekiti State University, Ado-ekiti, Ekiti State

instance want to attract students, both at undergraduate and graduate levels, from other countries within and beyond Africa, we must have accommodation for them. It's one of the reasons UK foreign earnings, a significant part is from tuition fees and student cost payments by non-UK citizens. Why can't we do the same and provide another window for the funding of our tertiary institutions But I can tell you, my joy is that last year the Board of Trustees decided that we've done so much for physical infrastructure, can we look at the content component? And I'll be glad to take on that aspect in the next few minutes.

TETFund and E-Learning Migration in Nigerian Higher Institution

This is a major area that, understandably, we are focusing on. The Honourable Minister of Education Malam Adamu Adamu advised that as much as it were possible, within nine months from the month of March, we should work towards migrating to e-learning, and we got the message. The institutions



The Senate Building, Imo State University (IMSU), Owerri Imo State

“ It is said that many African countries come to Nigeria to learn the successful intervention model of TETFund, what is the secret? And it may interest you to know that even within this country, a number of agencies that I don't have to name, have come to quietly ask, what is it you're doing that is different. ”

got it, TETFund got it, the regulatory agencies got it and we're working together in a triangular partnership to understand how to proceed. And so far, there are a number of things, talk about specifics under migration, e- learning migration; you talking about ICT facilities that are relevant; we are talking about virtual library facilities, whether it is hardware or software; we are talking about broadband capacities. We have tried what we call Central Broadband Expansion. It has failed in a number of areas but I don't want to be more specific about this.



Senate Building University of Maiduguri, Borno State

But more recently, each institution has taken it upon itself to attempt to expand or provide broadband that services all its ICT facility requirements. We are hoping in the next few years, even under this year, besides the hostel project that I mentioned that we want to invest massively, we are looking at investing in ICT to leverage the e-learning requirements, which is a global phenomenon. I mean, you will notice across, beside education, since Covid came on with the lockdown, it was obvious that

we had no option but to fast-track many things that other parts of the world more developed have also been doing. Virtual meetings are now becoming the norm, which was not the case before, and we couldn't do otherwise. I can assure you, as I'm talking to you, we're working out some final details. If we speak again at another interaction in about four to six months from now, I will sit more comfortably telling you what we would have achieved on expanding the ICT.

TETFund and Content Development in Nigerian Higher Institutions.

Talking about libraries for instance, I said, we have some iconic libraries out there, physical, yes, but anybody that engages in research and readership, goes into a library, you know that increasingly the hard book components, more of what you would want to see as those things that very soon, maybe reference sections. That what we are likely to see are the software application section, the virtual section; both the hard and software facilities, but the software now that are relevant for documentation, inventorization and accessing. Those are the in things, what you are looking for are the computer facilities; people go in with their laptops connecting there; of course, the desktops are there for many purposes depending on which section of

the library you go and that is it. So, we are very conscious about that. You cannot undertake research without accessing established research outcomes across the world. It is a library that provides you because the inventorization is housed there.

That is one aspect, but fundamentally something that precedes all that is research. Like I would always say, for too long, the Nigerian University system, our tertiary institutions, including the polytechnics and colleges of education have emphasized more teaching than research. Well, they are supposed to be complimentary but it was actually wrong.



Muhammadu Buhari Library, University of Maiduguri, (UNIMAID), Maiduguri, Borno

// The point was simple; eight to nine years ago, only 40% of Nigerian university lecturers had Ph.Ds. But as I talk to you now, the percentage, we're waiting to get NUC confirmation, is in the region of 70 to 80%. //

Teaching does not improve research necessarily, but you would agree with me that research is obligatory facilitation for the quality of teaching, so that is why we're deliberately focusing on research and take it or leave it, the ranking of the topmost, the Ivy Leagues of this world, universities – Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, you can go on and on. I tell you, it has to do with the quality of research, particularly the faculty; you have to look at the quality of faculty. Those research equipment will be derelict if you don't have personnel that have capacity to operate them; from the professors to the laboratory scientists to the biometric engineers, depending on which area of discipline, that's why the terminologies are separate. You need them, the faculty is key.

In many universities of today, a top most world - rated professor is sought for to just come to a university for one week. He goes into a classroom with some students that have seen that person's outcome of publications and believe me they will never be the same again. It is those category of professors that award themselves, that will define the facilities required for research. And if those research facilities are brought in, whether it is geophysical laboratory, chemistry, any of the biological - basic or applied medicine, call

it, whether it's engineering or any form of technology, ICT, one aspect of technology that has just changed the world. You have to make sure that the facilities are there, but very important the personnel. That is why TETFund intervention besides the research component which we are supporting, we have the Academic Staff Training and Development intervention, almost exclusively until last year when we now introduced Post-Doc. And of course there has been Bench Work, it has been largely PhD and Masters, both overseas and local.

The point was simple; eight to nine years ago, only 40% of Nigerian university lecturers had Ph.Ds. But as I talk to you now, the percentage, we're waiting to get NUC confirmation, is in the region of 70 to 80%. A university like Ibadan for instance, it is about 100% Ph.D holders. They hardly would take anybody without a Ph.D that is the NUC requirement. Of course we know that University of Ibadan is

// We are looking at agencies that we can share knowledge. For too long, part of the problem of our country is everybody operates in an island to himself or herself, and there is unnecessary rivalry, sometimes even within a sector or ministry. //

actually a postgraduate University, one of the very first in Africa. So, these are things that we know. So the personnel you have to develop. A professor that is about to retire, who has no reproduced himself or herself is not worth himself. In other words, you must have produced PhD holders that can look up to them and say I'm getting tired, but I've reproduced some person that will build on

what I did with high quality. These are the kind of things that engage us, those of us that supervise or have been supervising students, or even assessing professors as it were. These are some of the requirements; that is the aspect of research.

For TETFund, we have two major windows for research. We have the one called Institution Based Research (IBR) grant which is just N2 million maximum; and we had only 10 million per institution until last year when I made a case to the Board of Trustees, and they approved N50 million now, each institution every year. And for 2 million, you better know that means you have not less than 25 grants for a particular institution which is not very bad.

For the NRF, which is a bigger, National Research Fund of TETFund, which you have been reading in the papers. For IBR, it is for basic research; but for NRF, up to N50 million applied for research. For applied research, that means you are going for problem solving. So that is the kind of thing we're doing and last year, we had the highest single NRF research grant proposed from TETFund management to the Board of Trustees that recommended to the Honorable Minister who recommended to the president to approve N5 billion; and this year we moved it to N7.5 billion Naira. And I say it has remained the highest research grant, TETFund presently holds the highest research grant in Nigeria, in both the public and private space and this is important going forward.



1000 Capacity Lecture Theatre Kaduna State University, Kaduna State

I mean, many industries in this country including some conglomerates; they have been outsourcing competence and opportunity for expertise in addressing problem of some of the industries; outsourcing in the sense that they're not even using Nigerians and that is not right. What we're trying to do at TETFund is to remind us and that's why when I came in 2014, I made a case for the institutionalization of Research and Development and more recently, the National Universities Commission, the NBTE, NCCE were working together in partnership with Industry, Nigeria Economic Summit Group, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, TETFund to form the triple helix model of working together. Even within public service, we are reaching out; we have signed an MOU with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, we have signed with NITDA, PTDF and so on and so forth.

We are looking at agencies that we can share knowledge. For too long, part of the problem of



*7 Storey Building, Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH),
Yaba, Lagos, Lagos State*

our country is everybody operates in an island to himself or herself, and there is unnecessary rivalry, sometimes even within a sector or ministry. Believe me we've been operating as islands and that is not right. The same thing even in the University system. That is why we talk about interdisciplinary research; we're promoting it. Who says that somebody undertaking research in physics would not require the anthropologist?

These are some of the issues. The economists that we need to be able to interpret the impact of that particular research, whether it is in geology or whatever out there. So we just have to work together. The industry is very important; that is why the academia is reaching out, we moved out and we thank God the industry is responding. We have reached out to the Dangotes of this world, the



Student Hostel Federal University Kashere , Gombe State

“ My dream there is let's have an institution in this country, supported by law, the National Assembly makes the law; and it is there that some silent sources of funding that had never been considered will be brought together. You would be surprised how much billions will be available to support research ”



The Materials and Metallurgy Building, University of Benin (UNIBEN), Benin City, Edo State

Innoson Motors, we are hoping they will be coming on our R&D Standing Committee.

We want to make a case for the establishment of National R&D Foundation for Nigeria that should change the whole narrative about looking at the research in just a narrow context. No, the industry has to be a participant. The reason is simple; the industry needs the expertise of the best out there to understand what they require to add value to their products. You can close your eyes and imagine any industry, whether it is cement, food products, they need the expertise of the best. These are some of the things that we want to change the narrative. These are the content components going forward.

Then we have the manuscript development, turning PhD thesis into textbooks and then ordinary textbook being packaged by faculty members to turn them out there. We said for a long time, in Nigeria we're not seeing textbooks produced by Nigerian authors; both readership and writing culture has embarrassingly diminished. We couldn't continue that way.

TETFund is playing its role to change that narrative.

Rationale behind the Formulation of TETFund Centres of Excellence.

It took me discussing with the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission, Professor Abubakar Rasheed. In fact I remember, let me give him credit. He said to me: Prof. look at it this way - we have a department of R&D and Centres of Excellence in TETFund. Can we consummate it with the emergence of TETFund Centres of Excellence from the coming Budget Year? And that's how we came about 12 Centres of Excellence; two in each of the six geopolitical zones, mainly, first, second and third generation universities. And I'll tell you the concept, it is simple. Before now, the most notable Centres of Excellence were the ACEs as we call them, the African Centres of Excellence funded by the World Bank, which NUC houses and manages. We had about 11 or 14 some years back and additional, more than 10 also were approved, and some of them are winding down while the new ones are on.

The idea of a centre of excellence is simple. What challenged TETFund like I said, based on the advice that the Executive Secretary of NUC gave me; and we made a case to the Board of Trustees, and they graciously approved it is this: why is it that only World Bank will have Centres of Excellence in our tertiary institutions. It is not good enough, it's a shame. We should have our own Centres of Excellence. Now what is the concept of a Centre of Excellence? Let me attempt a casual definition of a Centre of Excellence. My understanding of a Centre of Excellence and this is a global phenomenon, historically so, is a centre that encompasses by all parameters of academic evaluation, the very best in terms of faculty and infrastructure that competes with the best anywhere in the world. That is what is Centre of Excellence is. We may not for instance; we may not have the best cutting edge laboratory equipment. We may have some basics but when a discipline, a department has some basics and it may have some good faculty members, and you want to strengthen it and make it a Centre of Excellence.

If you have strong faculty that you have trained and who have gotten PhDs from some of the best centres in the world; they may be ready but they don't have the equipment. Compliment those equipment and believe me, those PhDs holder that went to Germany, UK, Malaysia and came back to Nigeria; they will rise to the occasion, and they will produce other PhD holders who will constitute the foundation of sustaining that Centre of Excellence. That is what the centre of excellence is all about and that is our dream for TETFund. So we established 12, and these are the first and I call them inaugural 12 TETFund Centres of Excellence in various disciplines, mainly in STEM disciplines, with significant number in food science and technology, some of them in marine, artificial intelligence, of course medicine, pharmaceuticals, etc. Some, one or two I think, University of Ibadan in Interdisciplinary Studies, that is very unique, and then, University of Abuja in Governance and Leadership. You will agree with me that is very unique also. So this is the



Academic Building Tai – Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State

concept.

TETFund Intervention:

Years from Now I can tell you that I will not be done until I see we have institutionalized R&D in Nigeria. Let me tell you, it would be a guaranteed avenue. In fact, the National R&D Foundation; my dream there is let's have an institution in this country, supported by law, the National Assembly makes the law; and it is there that some silent sources of funding that had never been considered will be brought together. You would be surprised how much billions will be available to support research for both Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Post-Doctoral

and Bench Work within and beyond this country, as well as research that will solve problems of technology, of economy and of nation.

We have insecurity staring us in the face. If it continues this way, very soon we cannot do anything, because we'll be challenged by insecurity. We are looking forward to that and we hope that if we are able to get it right; for instance the hostel matter I talked about; if we're able to provide hostel, some of them directly from TETFund, some maybe from some other federal government agencies; Mr. President could decide tomorrow - look, let CBN make available special intervention for building of hostel for our universities polytechnic and college education. If these students are living in more conducive atmosphere, there will be less issues of distraction. In a situation where students are living with criminals, call it anything negative, they cannot concentrate on their studies. These are some of the things, but more important like I said, if we have good hostels that are



Centre for Dry Land Agriculture, Bayero University (BUK), Kano, Kano State

respectable, foreign students will come. It will be a foreign earner for this country for our educational institutions. And particularly we hope that even the appropriation funding may improve to continue to attract the best of faculty and retain them; and we are supporting research.

In other climes, the most ranked universities, like I said, it is faculty, and the research grants they hold. Professors are rated for the numbers of research grants the hold rather than just the number of publications; take this from me. That is something that we need to change. We need to see more of professors holding the most respected grants, not just any grant, the most respected grants with outcomes that are solving problems, I said of technology, of economy and of nation.

If we get to that stage, I can assure you, and all other things required; those other basic facilities, the physical ones are met, you have strong faculty; at the moment when they closed our borders, we were still debating whether our international airports will be open, but about a month ago somebody came to tell us the story of a surgery, where three Nigerian surgeons in a teaching hospital did an unbelievable 11 hour surgery and saved the life of a woman that the family had literally given up. Ordinary they would say rush them to India, London, Dubai, Germany. Why should it be, when we have the capacity, if the facilities are there and we are incentivizing the very best.

Nigeria's Education System in the Era of Virtual Classroom: The Impact of Covid-19 on the Education Sector

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro participated as a Panelist at the BusinessDay Digital Dialogues series titled: A National Conversation: Mapping Nigeria's Response to COVID-19. He spoke during the session titled: Nigeria's Education System in the Era of Virtual Classrooms moderated by Dr. Remi Adekoya.



Professor Bogoro, would you care to share some of your experiences with some core challenges facing the educational sector: pre-Covid, during Covid and in a post-Covid era, especially with regards to Nigeria's education infrastructure?

Thank you very much. I am happy to be on this platform to

share my thought with you in respect of education sector overall, I happen to be in charge of the funding for the tertiary sub-sector but nonetheless, I definitely am in a position to share our thoughts about the general education sector in its overall sense. Things have not been as would have ordinarily wished but we have always tried as much as we can; some of us that have the privilege of

presiding over agencies responsible for making a difference; to do what we need to do.

In your opening remarks you talked about some disturbing statistics, talking about for instance 10.5. The figure I think would be anything between 10 and 30 million of out-of-school children and if I may add, there is no doubt about it, that's a more disturbing aspect in a particular part of the country particularly the northern part. I would say about 90% of the out-of-school children are from the northern part. Definitely for any government expert, that is not very good. You can only be sustainable, productive and impactful when development is inclusive.

It's very sad that a significant segment of our youth don't have the opportunity of the benefits of education. For some of us today, you better imagine where you could have been if we didn't have the opportunity to have been trained academically to be what we are today. Again, it's also about fact that most of us, at our age today went through school that was either completely free or significantly subsidized. But unfortunately, so much has gone into dilapidation of physical infrastructure and manifesting with many children still sitting under trees to take lessons and all that. They are very disturbing.

Well, let me add quickly by the way that the Honorable Minister of Education has been quite disturbed and concerned about the issue of out-of-school children, so much so that having known that the tertiary sub-

sector through TETFund intervention, has significant support and emphasizing urgent intervention in the basic sub-sector. And I can tell you, as I'm talking, there are plans to inject more funds and mobilize communities that have some excuses- untenable excuses in many cases, not to encourage their children to go to school, particularly the girl child. These are disturbing scenarios.

From there, let me proceed quickly to talk about your question on pre-Covid Covid era and post-Covid. Yes, I take note of one thing. Personally, if there is anything I want to recall at the tertiary sub-sector level; for me as Executive secretary of TETFund, I love to recall the emergence of TETFund that first came into being as Education Trust Fund (ETF), originally Education Tax Fund in 1993, following the negotiation between the Federal Military Government of General Ibrahim Babangida at that time and ASSU with ETF emerging the following year after the agreement that was signed in 1992.

In 2011, there was wisdom in refocusing to ensure that the funds were applied to the original target, which was the tertiary sub-sector; and the 2011 TETFund Act was very specific defining the targeted tertiary institutions as public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. I recall that between 1990 and 1992 during the struggle - it is important I make this point, ASSU had said Nigeria universities were glorified secondary schools and that

there was more of decrepitude rather than anything elegant in our university system; that it was unacceptable. So I can assure you that as it turned out to be, the emphasis was on the provision of infrastructure for most of the years.

From 2011, the focus now was modified to inject, what we call the content component as top priorities - research, academic publishing through journals manuscript development, library development, funding of academic staff to go for doctorate degrees both overseas and locally, as well as international conference attendance. I recall that, believe me before then, Nigeria academic staff, some would virtually retire without having an opportunity to go for an international conference to share ideas with others across the globe.

So from 2011, I can tell you only 40% of Nigerian lecturers had PhDs in our universities. But after about 4 or 5 years, by the year 2015 that percentage had reached 60%. As we are talking, five years after, it is estimated, we're waiting for the official figure from the National Universities Commission; we believe that the percentage of Ph.D holders in our universities is anything now between 75 to 80-85%. That is significant improvement and has contributed to improve ranking. As at five years ago, no Nigerian university was ranked among the top 1000 in the world. But recently, at least we have two universities - one public, one private. The University of Ibadan and of course, Covenant



University that have appeared among the top 1000 in the world. We are hoping that Nigerian Universities be ranked among the top 500, and why not 200, very soon.

In the era of Covid, the Honourable Minister of Education directed that we should migrate to e-learning within nine months from March. In any case, I don't think there are options. Within the Covid period, we've noticed it, just like me and you are now talking on this platform. Before now, not just the education sector, most other sectors were hardly taking advantage of virtual meetings and communications but you can see that happening. I can assure you, what is happening right now. For instance, at TETFund, we have had a number of meetings, including a board emergency meeting that was virtual.

Of course, right at the schools - the Universities, Polytechnics and College of Education; as well as even the secondary

schools, massive infrastructure is being made available to ensure that e-learning is the new way going forward.

We know that it means massive resources, just like with COVID, we noticed that there was such deficit in infrastructure in the health sector. It is very clear now that yes, Covid is around - it has a lot of negatives but then the positive side of it is that it has challenged us to be more innovative and many people now are going for e-Learning; and I am very sure that Nigeria is moving closer now to the more advanced nation in terms of using virtual facilities, whether for ordinary communication, or in the libraries, and so on, to ensure that we deliver. Going forward, we are very sure; we have a Board of Trustees meeting in the next few weeks and we intend to review the committee recommendation on how to comply with virtual communication, teaching and learning facilities in our tertiary institutions.

What is the Government doing to support capacity building for online trainings?

Let me respond with a sentence or two on the issue of content. At all levels from the basic to the tertiary, the first thing in respect of content is curriculum. And, of course, pedagogy that is used as an instrument, to of course, implement curricular policies as approved by the regulatory agencies; for universities, of course, it is NUC; for polytechnics NBTE and for colleges of education NCCE. Curriculum is very important, and I want to say that, especially over the last 10- 15 years, entrepreneurship was considered very important and introduced in our curriculum in order to deem our graduates relevant for the job market. It constituted an embarrassment that graduates just come out and they are irrelevant out there.

In respect of jobs, I think we know that it is, we don't have the answers at this panel, and it's a

bigger problem. But I've always said one thing that I respect a graduate that thinks not first a government job, think more of private, and perhaps specifically self-employment. Having said that, let me go back to the issue raised.

Yes for online training and digital learning and teaching, as it were. Well, I implied it in my opening remarks. In TETFund, for instance, because we are today, overwhelmingly the largest funder of infrastructure provision in public tertiary institutions. So much so that if you go out, many institutions can as well be called TETFund institutions and only recently, we

put up a committee to advise us on how to migrate to E-learning. We are conscious of that. Also, training on the job; training and retraining has always been there. I spoke about capacity development and many of the training funded by TETFund.

We are addressing the issue of bandwidth, the issue of basic hardware as well as software facilities. We are providing and supporting at various levels, some at institutional level, there are those that we support to go outside the country, if necessary for short term exposure. So I can assure you that to the best of my knowledge, yes there is

government policy. There has been inadequate funding, but for me at TETFund, if an institution requires training, we have windows to support them, including, for instance, some of the opportunity for international conference attendance, and so on and so forth.

So, unless, where there is shortage of funds, there is a policy that states very clearly on-the-job training, and we've been doing whatever we can. And that has helped in the improved rating and ranking of our tertiary institutions.

Thank you very much Professor.

Security: DICON Seeks Partnership with TETFund



5th and 6th left: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and Director-General, DICON, Maj. Gen. Victor Okwudili Ezeugwu flanked by some management staff of TETFund and DICON

The Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) is seeking a means of partnering with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) with a view to expanding the various research

projects currently being carried out by the Corporation.

The Director General of DICON, Major General Victor Okwudili Ezeugwu, who led a delegation to TETFund on a

courtesy visit stated that the current technological revolution currently taking place in DICON necessitated the need to seek partnership with the Fund to enable it achieve its goals of providing the required defence

equipment and other products to the nation.

Major General Ezugwu noted that “the security situation in the country is serious and we all need to wake up from our sleep. If you don't provide enabling security environment, there's no way that development is going to occur in this country”.

“We promise you that any collaboration with TETFund, or any research assistance, we have a very good plan to judiciously utilise, and there'll be great benefit to the security agencies and the Armed Forces. The essence of which is to make Nigeria better secured so we can develop,” he remarked.

Making a presentation on the Corporation's burgeoning Research and Development Centre, DICON's Director of Research and Development, Col. Damian Deke high-lighted areas of interest such as ongoing projects in various laboratories and production units at the Centre.

Of particular interest were areas of research and innovation such as the weapon and ammunition production unit, localisation of the production of MRAPs and liquid metal cleaning detergents.

Col. Deke explained: “Hitherto we were using concentrated sulphuric acid 99.6% as metal cleaner. Imagine when somebody is working under that situation, we were suffering, so they tasked us that definitely there's another thing that could clean. So we came out with a



The Director of Research and Development, DICON, Col. Damian Deke, making a presentation on on-going projects in various laboratories at the Centre, during the visit to TETFund.

formulation, DICON metal cleaner 001. You can dip your hand in it, very sweet aromatic smell and without any corrosive effect on our machine.

“And as we are talking, the Chinese that established this production line are still using acid. We will soon have agreement with them to be supplying them this our product,” Col. Deke stated.

Under the leadership of General Ezugwu, he pointed out that DICON has undergone an evolution of a new vision, mission statement and a redefined path of transformation, placing the nation on the global map of industrial revolution.

Responding, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro said the array of projects and equipment DICON has been able to provide as well as those undergoing research processes are indications that the Agency

is on a mission to great success.

“DICON has earned its respectability in the military of our country. You are sacrificing your lives and everything for the nation, we can never thank you enough. Now you are demonstrating your intellectual capacity to make a difference,” he stated.

The Executive Secretary reiterated the importance and benefits of technological research, stating that creating a national Research and Development Foundation will drastically reduce the amount being spent on R&D at the moment.

“Something tells me if we get it right, we undertake productive research outcomes that can solve our technological and economic problems, we will be earning anything between 2-5 times the amount we are spending on R&D in our country and that is the best way to go forward,” he said.

COVID-19: NIPRD's Proposal for Key Actors' Collaboration Excites Bogoro



From R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, responding to the Director General, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research & Development, Dr Peter Obi Adigwe, when the latter led a delegation on a collaborative visit to TETFund office in Abuja.

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro has expressed the readiness of the Fund to work with organizations that have relevant mandate to provide solution to the critical needs of the country.

Bogoro revealed this while receiving in audience, the Director-General of the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), Dr. Obi Adigwe, who visited the Fund recently.

He said "TETFund is happy to be associated with agencies that have relevant mandate to solving Nigeria's critical problem at a time that it matters most, talking about the COVID challenge. The visit of NIPRD to TETFund gives a rare opportunity for elevated publicity and enhancement of relationship between key actors in the research community in

Nigeria", he added.

He described as unfortunate the academia who have failed to put research in the right perspective and that TETFund by law only funds Public Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

"How can this narrative be changed when academia and researchers had operated in a cocoon for so long and oftentimes do not see the need to involve the researcher in the industry or even invite the government to put up laws that will enhance the environment for the researcher".

"The law of TETFund does not permit it to support research from either NIPRD, NAFDAC or any other Centre of Excellence that are not degree-awarding. No matter how deep they may be, the law does not permit it to engage them or invite them to put a research grant proposal that it can fund", he said.

He, however, stated that there could be a window to include such bodies. "The use of principal investigators to ensure that we are within the law of TETFund. The research grant must be from a beneficiary Institution. If for instance, university X is the principal investigator, then they invite NIPRD as second or third level partners on their research grant," he said.

He assured the team that being a former university professor, he completely understands the limitation for lecturers and to get this right, there is need for a paradigm shift. He said, he is excited that NIPRD is at TETFund in recognition of the need to proceed along the Triple Helix Model: Academia, Industry and Government.

Dr. Adigwe while speaking, said the visit is of high priority and that NIPRD is excited with the very impressive impact of TETFund especially with the

National Research and Development drive to take Nigeria to the desired development level.

He intimated the Executive Secretary on some of the activities the institute has carried out with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic response in Nigeria and promised to present opportunities that lie within for NIPRD and TETFund to work together.

The Director-General stated that phytomedicine which is believed to be where Nigeria's wealth lies has not been neglected as new products have either been identified or repurposed to see how it can add value to current treatment of Covid-19.

He added that NIPRD

understands the different stakeholder aggregation relevant to the discussion for ensuring that phytomedicines are discovered and processed using the highest level of science through pre-clinical and clinical studies to product development.

"There are three key stakeholders that need to be engaged at the bottom level and they are the practitioners, pharmaceutical industry and the universities. The institute has worked with the PTF, CBN and other bodies and addressed funding to project design for the practitioners and the pharmaceutical industry. Where there is a gap now is with the universities.

"Though the universities are conducting research, such

research is not guided towards following the most effective and efficient methodology to get result and product development within the shortest time.

"Therefore, the proposal today is that since TETFund has the universities and NIPRD has the experience and expertise, it will be a great idea for both organizations to work together to design a program whereby TETFund can use its supervision within the universities to get people who either fit into the criteria or have interest in feeding into the program, so that within a shortest period of time with allocated resources, there will be talks about 1, 2, 3, 4-10 products for COVID-19 that are guaranteed to have followed the proper process," the NIPRD boss said.

TETFund's TAG Chairman Emerges President-Elect of IAFoST

The Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group on Book Development (TAG) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof Charles Aworh has emerged as President-Elect of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST), the Academy Council of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) for Term 2020-2022.

In a letter addressed to Prof. Aworh by the Executive Director of IUFoST, Judith Meech on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Union thanked Prof. Aworh for his willingness to serve IUFoST and IAFoST in the Academy Council.

The Executive Director expressed optimism that with Prof. Aworh's commitment, expertise and fine



Prof. Charles Aworh

leadership qualities, the Union look forward to the continued advancement of the discipline of Food Science and Technology for the betterment of all.

The International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST) is a statutory component of IUFoST that collectively forms a pool of scientific expertise in food science and technology from which IUFoST draws non-aligned expert advice on scientific matters.

A Fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology, Prof. Charles Aworh is also a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science & Technology (NIFST).

His area of research include

post-harvest technology, food processing and biotechnology and he has over 100 scientific publications.

Speaking on the emergence of Prof. Charles Aworh as President-Elect of the Academy Council, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, on behalf of the Board, Management and staff of the Fund congratulated him on his well-deserved election and added that TETFund is proud to be associated with his achievements.

Prof. Bogoro described Prof. Aworh as an intellectual who has contributed immensely to the academic and overall development of the country and expressed confidence that he would bring his wealth of experience in Food Science and

Technology to bear at the Academy for further global development.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to academics and role in TAG, Prof. Charles Aworh was in August 2019 appointed as the Chairman of TETFund's Technical Advisory Group on Book Development (TAG).

He had served as Convener of TAG for years and played a very key role in the publication of several tertiary education textbooks sponsored by the Fund.

TAG is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the publication of quality indigenous academic textbooks in Nigerian tertiary educational institutions.

TAG Presents 2nd Edition of Higher Education Book Guidelines and Award Letters to Professional Journals

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund's Technical Advisory Group on Book Development (TAG) has presented the 2nd Edition of its Higher Education Book Development Guidelines to assist intending authors under the Fund's Book Development programme in their submissions.

The Fund also presented Letters of Award of N5 million allocation each to seven professional association journals to help improve their quality, web visibility and impact.



From R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and Ag. Director, Education Support Services Department, Mr. Okunlola Kolapo during a virtual meeting on the presentation of the 2nd Edition of Higher Education Book Guidelines & Award letters



From R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and Ag. Director, Education Support Services Department, Mr. Okunlola Kolapo during a virtual meeting on the presentation of the 2nd Edition of Higher Education Book Guidelines & Award letters

Making the presentations recently via a virtual meeting that involved members of TAG, conveners of its sub-committees, management of TETFund, professional associations and other stakeholders, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro commended the entire membership of TAG for their commitment to the Book Development project.

The Executive Secretary recalled that TAG was first constituted in 2009 with the aim of fine-tuning the then Education Trust Fund (ETF) Book Development document into a strategic working document that spells out the administrative procedures, frameworks and guidelines for effective book development intervention in tertiary educational institutions in the country.

This, he said, was to remedy the inadequacy of academic books which had reached a near crisis proportion in the country, as evident in the quantity and quality of locally produced books.

Prof. Bogoro stated that the TETFund Book Development project is designed to reactivate and nurture research-based publication of academic books and journals in hard and electronic forms in higher educational institutions, thereby empowering institutions in Nigeria to benefit from and contribute to knowledge production nationally and globally.

He noted that the first edition of the guidelines was presented in 2010 and the need to build on the achievements in the global production and dissemination of knowledge necessitated its revision.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of TAG, Prof. Oguguo Charles Aworh presented a report of the activities of the Group leading to the publication of the guidelines.

Prof. Aworh stated that the guidelines had been ready for presentation since March 2020 but delayed due to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In his remarks, TETFund's Acting Director of Education Support Services, Mr. Kolapo Okunlola expressed appreciation to the Chairman, conveners of sub-committees and members of TAG for their commitment and sacrifice towards the realization of the objectives of the Book Development project.

He also thanked the Executive Secretary for his approval to include the names of past and serving members of TAG in the 2nd Edition of the Guidelines in recognition of their contributions.

The professional associations which were presented Letters of Award are the Association of Business Education of Nigeria, Endocrine and Metabolic Society of Nigeria, Nigerian Society for Plant Protection and Nigerian Society of Nematologists.

Others are Curriculum Organization of Nigeria, Nigerian Academy of Education and English Scholars Association of Nigeria.



FARA, TETFund, UFV Inaugurate Governance Framework for ARIFA

Within the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the Tertiary Education Trust Fund of Nigeria (TETFund) and the Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV) – Brazil have inaugurated the Governance Framework for the Agricultural Research and Innovation Fellowship for Africa (ARIFA).

The historic event which was organized via zoom webinar climaxed two years of preparatory work and series of engagements with various stakeholders. This event places Nigeria as the first country to take advantage of the FARA-led ARIFA.

ARIFA is a component of FARA's Holistic Empowerment for Livelihoods Program (HELP),

which responds to the growing need for 'fit-for-purpose' agricultural research for development capacity in Africa. ARIFA aims to produce a new generation of 'fit-for-purpose' workforce to reengineer the African agri-food sector, by applying the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D) approach and the Innovation Platform concept to drive agricultural

transformation and industrialization on the continent.

Under the FARA-TETFund-UFV partnership, TETFund will provide financial support to train 120 Nigerian academics in tailor-made MSc/PhD programs covering various fields related to agriculture at Universidade Federal de Viçosa (UFV) in Brazil. All ARIFA TETFund-sponsored scholars in the programme have been offered a tuition waiver for the courses of their choice.

ARIFA draws its uniqueness from organizing the fellowship recipients into

cohorts of students assembled to acquire the full complement of skills and competencies required by specific agricultural value chains. The Working Document and the Governance Structure have been put in place to kick start the implementation of the Brazilian component of the ARIFA programme from November 2020.

FARA has had a long-standing relationship with Brazil, having leveraged the South-South and Triangular Cooperation to establish and operationalize the Africa-Brazil Agricultural Innovation Marketplace and M-BoSs: building on the

successes of the Marketplace (<https://www.embrapa.br/en/marketplace>) both hosted by EMPRAPA.

FARA has also entered into partnership with Instituto Brasil-Africa (IBA), Fortaleza, Brazil to serve as a platform for connecting Brazilian and African agribusiness sectors to take advantage of innovation-driven agribusiness opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean; and to leverage the power of Brazilian agricultural research and development facilities and the state-of-the-art technologies.



Bogoro Expresses Delight over Quality Project Delivery in Oyo Institutions



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, (right) Chairman, Governing Council, First Technical University, Ibadan, Prof. Oye Ibidapo Obe, (middle) Vice Chancellor, First Technical University, Ibadan, Prof. Olayinka Salami (left) and some TETFund Directors during the official commissioning of the Communication Laboratory Building for Faculty of Technology, First Technical University, Ibadan.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro has expressed delight over the quality of TETFund projects being executed in some beneficiary institutions in Oyo State.

Prof. Bogoro gave the expression when he visited three TETFund beneficiary institutions in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital for inspection and commissioning of projects.

The three institutions are the University of Ibadan, First Technical University and

Ibadan Polytechnic.

The Executive Secretary commenced the exercise at the University of Ibadan, where he was received by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka who took him round for the commissioning of completed TETFund buildings and inspection of ongoing ones within and outside the main campus.

He commended the university management for its developmental efforts and also congratulated the university on its emergence as one of the Top 500

universities in the world.

Some of the completed buildings are the Communication Laboratory Department of Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science Multipurpose Centre and the Chemistry Laboratory.

Others include the Department of Agric Extension and Rural Development, Multi-Disciplinary Research Laboratory, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Bodija and the

Institute of Maternal and Child Health, College of Medicine.

Ongoing works at the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Education and others are expected to be completed during the year.

The Executive Secretary later proceeded to the First Technical University where he

First Technical University, Ibadan was enlisted by TETFund alongside 13 others as a beneficiary institution two years ago.

At the Polytechnic Ibadan, Prof. Bogoro commissioned a 150/250-Seater Lecture Hall and a 350-Seater Lecture Hall converted to a 400-seater hall with additional

noting that he derives pleasure in visiting institutions with performing heads.

In their reactions, the heads of the three institutions expressed appreciation to TETFund for its immense contributions to the infrastructural and manpower development of their institutions.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (middle), Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka (2nd left), Provost, College Medicine, University of Ibadan, Prof. Olayinka Omigbodun (right), and others during official commissioning of the National Institute of Maternal and Child Health Building at the University of Ibadan.

unveiled the institution's Faculty of Engineering Workshop.

He expressed satisfaction at the quality of equipment at the workshop and commended the management of the institution under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ayobami Salami for its visionary leadership.

It would be recalled that the

funds provided by the Polytechnic.

He also commissioned the 300-Seater Technical/Engineering Drawing Studio on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TETFund, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim- Imam.

The Executive Secretary commended the Rector of the polytechnic, Prof. Kazeem Adekunle Adebisi for the quality of work executed,

The Executive Secretary was accompanied on the assignment by TETFund's Director of Physical Infrastructural Development, Mallam Buhari Mikailu; Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Engr. Mustapha Gotala; Technical Assistant to the Executive Secretary on Finance, Mr. Musa Alhamdu; his counterpart in Research and Development (R&D), Dr. Mustapha Popoola among others.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right), presenting a souvenir to the Executive Governor of Kogi State, His Excellency Governor Yahaya Adoza Bello, (left) during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



GROUP PHOTO: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, (4th left), with the Chairman, Forward In Action For Education, Poverty And Malnutrition, Bauchi, Mr. Ada Solomon and other members of the delegation, during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



From R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro exchanging pleasantries with the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Oluwale Oke and the Director, Finance and Investment TETFund, Sa'idu Idris, during a Public Hearing at the National Assembly in Abuja



The Vice Chancellor, IBB University Lapal, Niger State, Prof. Abu Kashim Adamu (left) presenting a souvenir to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right), during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, with the Vice Principal, International Professor of Security, Leadership and Development, during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (center), accompanied by the Ag. Director, ICT Mr. Joseph Odo (right) giving a tour of the TETFund Server room to the Chairman Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrimes, Sen. Yakubu Oseni (left) during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



From 2nd Left: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Emeritus Prof. Dr. C. C. Nwosu, Prof. S.O.C. Ugwu, Prof. Anselem Oyimonyi (right) and a member of Governing Council, University of Nigeria, during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right), presenting a souvenir to the Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof. Kabir Bala (left) during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



From 4th Right: Honorable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, Hon. Minister of State for Education, Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during the 2020 World Teachers Day Celebration and Awards in Abuja



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) and the Director, Admin. Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Mr Yakubu Abdullahi (left), during an inspection visit to the National Covid-19 Research Consortium (NCRC) recently in Abuja.



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (center), receiving a copy of the Economic Confidentialia Magazine from the Publisher, Mallam Yushua Shuiab (right) while the Editor, Mr. Ewache Ajefu looks on.



From R-L: The Chief of Army Staff, General T.Y Buratai, (right) presenting a copy of SOJA magazine to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



From L-R: Representative of the Executive Secretary TETFund, Director, Finance & Investment, Alhaji Sa'idu Idris, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Buhari Mikailu and the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, Engr. Mustapha Gotala, during the Combined Passing Out Parade (POP) for Short Service Course 46 (Army) and 67 Regular Course at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna State



From R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, exchanging pleasantries to the Honorable Minister of State, Mines & Steel, Dr. Uchechukwu Sampson Ogah, during a courtesy visit to TETFund Head office in Abuja



L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, presenting Certificate of recognition to the Best Teacher in Private school category to Barr. Lazarus Abiawhobeve, during the President's Teachers & Schools Excellence Awards at the 2020 World Teachers Day Celebration in Abuja



From 5th Left: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Chief of Army Staff, General T.Y Buratai, Chairman TETFund's Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC), Emeritus Professor, Njidda Gadzama and others, during an official visit to the Nigerian Army Defence Headquarters in Abuja.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka (right), Director, Finance & Investment, Saidu Idris (2nd right), Director, Physical Infrastructure, Buhari Mikailu (middle) and an official of U.I, during the commissioning of Student Ecological Centre at the University of Ibadan.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right), presenting a souvenir to the Director General, National Institute For Pharmaceutical Research & Development, Dr. Peter Obi Adigwe (left), during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja



From 5th left: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, National Security Adviser, Maj. General Babagana Monguno (Rtd.) Chairman RDSC, Emeritus Professor, Njidda Gadzama and others in a group photograph, during a courtesy visit to the office of the National Security Adviser in Abuja.



From L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro having a chat with the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka and the Vice-Chancellor, First Technical University, Ibadan, Prof. Ayobami Salami, during an official visit to beneficiary institutions in Ibadan, recently

THE INAUGURATION OF THE TETFUND RESEARCH AND



DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE (RDSC)





The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (3rd left), Director Finance and Investment, TETFund, Alh. Saidu Idris, The Executive Governor of Kwara State, Abdul Rahman Abdul Razaq (2nd left) and his delegations during the Governors visit to the Fund, recently



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (middle), Director General, Defence Research and Development Bureau, Air Vice Marshall O.J Osahor (2nd left), Deputy Director Coordination, Commodore S.O Ode (left), Director, Test and Evaluation, Major General B.M Shafa and the Military Assistant to the Director General, Wing Commander FD Stephen, during a courtesy visit to TETFund office in Abuja.



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (2nd right) Presenting a Souvenir to the Vice Chancellor, Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Professor Shehu Alhaji Musa (2nd left), while other look on



From R-L: Prof. Nazifi Darma, Director - Strategic Planning Department, Arc. Frivwo Inene, Chairman, TETFund In-House Committee on Strategic Planning Dr. Otive Igbuzor, Dr. (Mrs) Ejio Otive Igbuzor, Dr. Hussaini Abdul and Deputy Director - Strategic Planning Department, Mal. Yahaya Yakubu, during the inauguration of the 2020-2024 In-House Committee on TETFund Strategic Planning at the TETFund Head Office, Abuja



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (center), National President, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Alumni Association (ATBU), Mohammed Sani Wada (2nd left) and his team during a courtesy visit to the Fund recently



From R-L: Chairman, Board of Trustees (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, Amb. Obed Wadzani, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (middle), Engr. Aminu Shehu and the Director, Human Resource & General Administration, Barr. Adamu Abubakar, during an inspection tour on the newly completed annex building at the TETFund Head Office recently in Abuja



From L-R: Chairman, Board of Trustees (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during the Chairman's first official visit to the Fund



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (4th left), Executive Governor of Ebonyi State, David Nweze Umahi (3rd left), Former Governor of Ebonyi State, Senator Sam Egwu (4th right) and other delegates during a courtesy visit to the Fund, recently



R-L: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro in a handshake with the Permanent Secretary, Police Service Commission, Mr Mbaeri Maurice, during a courtesy visit to TETFund Headquarters in Abuja.



The Executive Secretary, Nigerian Christian Pilgrims Commission (NCPC), Rev Yakubu Pam (left) and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right), during a courtesy visit to the Fund, recently



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (5th left), Vice Chancellor, Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Prof. Shehu Alhaji Musa (4th left) and his entourage during the vice Chancellor's visit to the Fund



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (center), Head ICPC Team, Mr. Adigun Olusegun (3rd right) and his entourage during the courtesy visit to the Fund, recently



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (3rd right), the Chairman, Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrimes, Sen. Yakubu Oseni (4th right) with other members of the Committee and some Management staff of the Fund during an oversight function visit, recently



From R-L: Rector, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, (ATAP) Dr. Suleiman Lame, in a chat with the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (middle) and the Deputy Speaker, Bauchi State House of Assembly, Hon. Abdulmumini Bala Fanti, during the official commissioning of some TETFund projects in ATAP, Bauchi State.



The Chairman, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Technical Advisory Group (ATG), Prof. Charles Aworh (left) speaking during the presentation of the 2nd Edition of Higher Education Book Guidelines & Award letters while the Ag. Director, Public Affairs Department, Mr. Abdulmumin Oniyangi looks on



The Newly Commissioned Muhammadu Buhari Institute for Research and Training, Federal University, Lafia.



Academic Publishing Centre, Federal University Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State



'One out of many' equipment acquired through TETFund Intervention Fund, at the First Technical University of Ibadan, Oyo State.



Technical/ Engineering Drawing Studio Building, Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State.



Information Communication Technology (ICT) Centre, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba Lagos



Newly constructed Faculty of Public Health Building, University of Ibadan, Oyo State.

Gov. Ishaku Lauds Buhari, TETFund for Transformatory Projects at Jalingo Varsity

....As TETFund Unveils 30 Projects at Wukari



From R-L, Chairman House Committee on Tertiary Education and TETFund, Hon. Aminu Suleiman Goro; Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Taraba State, Deputy Governor, Engr. Haruna Manu, Executive Secretary, N.U.C, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed, Vice Chancellor, Taraba State University, Prof. Vincent Ado Tenebe and others during the official Commissioning of the Faculty of Law (Admin Block) in Taraba State University.

Governor Dairus Ishaku of Taraba State has lauded President Mohamadu Buhari for engineering the various transformations going on in the nation's tertiary education sector through the intervention of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

The Governor, who was represented by his Deputy, Engr. Haruna Manu, made the commendation at the commissioning of Administrative blocks of Faculty of Law Theatre, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Social Management Science and Agricultural Science, sponsored by TETFund, at the Taraba State University Jalingo. Ishaku reiterated that as no nation can progress without proper and high quality education, his administration would not relent in giving Taraba indigenes the high quality of education they have always yearned for.

Also speaking, the Vice Chancellor of Taraba state University, Prof. Ado Vincent Tenebe noted that TETFund is the foremost Agency of Government that has given lifelines to all the public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria.

He used the forum to thank TETFund, the National University Commission, and the Ministry of Education for the wonderful gesture extended to the State.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro in his remarks, expressed satisfaction with the quality of projects executive by the institution, describing the university as one of the fastest growing beneficiary institutions in the country.

In a related development, the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC),

Professor Abubakar Rasheed has assured the Federal University Wukari, also in Taraba State that the institution would get approval for the establishment of a faculty of medicine before this year runs out. The NUC scribe disclosed this while commissioning more than 30 newly constructed TETFund projects undertaken during the tenure of Prof. Abubakar Kundiri as the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The projects include the construction of 2 modern male and female hostels and construction of office complexes, accommodation for both faculties of Pure and Applied Sciences, Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, a VC lodge, academic staff offices and academic staff quarters.

Other projects are University Library, Information and Communication Center



Laboratories, Convocation Square, Sports facilities, municipal facilities such as water, roads, electrical and other installations among many others.

According to Professor Rasheed, the need to commence the College of Medicine, which the Taraba people have yearned for, was also necessitated by the rapid growth of the institution made possible by the commitment of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar M. Kundiri.

The NUC boss said the desired dreams of the institution to commence the study of Medicine have finally been actualized, stating that "before the end of this year this University would be granted the approval to commence the study of medicine."

He said, "We have seen visible and credible leadership in this University. The commission in collaboration with the leadership of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund would work tirelessly round the clocks, to herald more projects to the university".

"Kundiri is one of the best performing Vice Chancellors in Nigerian Universities. The various

projects initiated by the VC, coupled with his ability to herald growth to the institution despite the security challenges in the area, the commission, would continue to rally round the university to triumph", he added.

Lending his voice in praise of the institution management, Professor Bogoro described the Vice Chancellor of Taraba State University as a man who adds multiple values that brings so much benefit to the university similar to his time as VC of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

Bogoro who appreciated the University for honoring him with a doctorate degree, also recalled that the university was the fastest to deliver the high impact project in 2019.

Also speaking, Chairman House Committee on Tertiary Education, Hon. Aminu Suleiman Goro commended the University for delivering high quality projects, noting that from what he has seen on ground in Taraba State University, the university may not be part of the verification exercise planned by the committee, because of the quality of the work that he has seen in the university.

Earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University Wukari, Prof Abubakar Kundiri, explained that when he took over the Institution in 2016, it was lagging behind in infrastructure as well as accreditation of courses. All these he said would be in the past as about 27 of its courses were fully accredited, while at least 30 projects worth billions of naira are being commissioned.

"Through the support of TETFund, we have continued to transform the face of the University towards meeting our goals of development to a world-class University that is dedicated to meeting the human resource and research requirements of Nigeria and the global community", Kundiri said.

Apart from infrastructure, the Vice-Chancellor also thanked TETFund for various interventions such as Academic Staff Training and Development; Research Grants, and Conference Attendance.

"These have further helped to strengthen our drive and commitment of our staff to teaching, research, and community service", he said.

Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrime Visits TETFund



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) making some remarks during an oversight function visit of the Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrimes, with him is the Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Yakubu Oseni.

The Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrime has paid an oversight visit to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) with a view to ascertaining the cyber security preparedness as well as level of funding of digital technology education in Nigeria's Tertiary Educational Institutions.

Chairman of the Committee, Senator Yakubu Oseni who led members of the committee to the Fund, described the exercise as a statutory responsibility as enshrined in section 88 and 89 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended, which empowers the National Assembly through its committees, to carry out checks on agencies of Government on general institutional framework and specific matters.

The Committee on ICT and Cybercrime he explained, was created by the 8th Senate based on the need to ensure that the

nation's ICT system align with the world of Information and Communication Technology and the promotion of cyber security.

Senator Oseni further stressed that oversight findings have revealed serious gaps in digital technology in Nigeria, which he noted is a pointer that the country still lags behind in infrastructure sophistication, data management and digital security that are critical to the national development agenda.

He, therefore, emphasized the urgent need for collaboration between all interests and the legislature to galvanize rapid development in digital technology and cyber security in Nigeria's ecosystem.

The Chairman added that the committee was not leaving any stone unturned as it had set plans in motion to organize an international stakeholders'

conference to be held in October 2020. The conference, he said, is ultimately expected to identify gaps inherent in the system and generate appropriate synergy in relationship of stakeholders with a view to ensuring consistency, complementarity and articulating a structured approach to resolving Nigeria's digital technology shortfalls and cyber security challenges shortfalls.

In his welcome address, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro expressed appreciation to the Committee for taking the bold step of initiating the oversight visit for the purpose of knowing what the Fund is doing in respect to ICT.

The Executive Secretary stated that ICT has become one of the defining instruments with the knowledge economy and that its deployment has made the knowledge economy more seamless in the 21st Century.

While noting the role played by ICT during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic such as the introduction of Zoom to facilitate virtual meetings as well as migration to e-learning, Prof. Bogoro assured that TETFund was also conscious of the importance of ICT and has commenced the digitalization of its processes.

He further informed the Senate



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) accompanied by the Ag. Director, ICT Mr. Joseph Odo (right) during a tour of the TETFund Server room with the Chairman Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrimes, Sen Yakubu Oseni (left) and other members of the Committee during an oversight visit to the Fund, recently

Committee that TETFund has a robust intervention on ICT available to its beneficiary institutions and the institutions are utilizing the intervention in addressing ICT-issues.

Also at the meeting, the Acting Director of ICT, Mr. Joseph Odo made a brief presentation on Digital Technology platform, cyber security framework of TETFund, cost analysis of cyber security measures and infrastructure development among others.

Governor Makinde Commends Bogoro for Delivering on TETFund's Mandate

Oyo State Governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde has commended the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro for making an impact by delivering on the mandate of the Fund without bias for political party affiliation or ethnicity.

Engr. Makinde gave the commendation recently during a dinner held in honour of Prof. Bogoro who was in the state to commission TETFund projects in some beneficiary institutions in Ibadan.

The Governor who stated that his government has identified areas where interventions could aid the development of the state, said he found a relationship with TETFund strategic to the state's agenda on quality education system.



Executive Governor of Oyo State, Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, presenting a piece of Art work to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during a dinner held in honour of Prof. S. E. Bogoro and his team at the Oyo State Government House in Ibadan.

I want to thank you for your leadership at TETFund; for being apolitical and for looking at your duty as an assignment for the entire country, irrespective of ethnic background and political leaning. This is the kind of leadership we deserve in this country and that is what can take this country out of the woods.

Our roadmap was well-developed before electioneering and it identified those areas where we think intervention will accelerate development for us; and education is one of them.

"We looked at the 20 percent recommended budgetary



Executive Governor of Oyo State, Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, presenting a piece of Art work to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during a dinner held in honour of Prof. S. E. Bogoro and his team at the Oyo State Government House in Ibadan.

allocation by UNESCO and we looked at our annual budget for a sustainable project in education and we knew there are things we will be able to achieve for our tertiary institutions if interventions from TETFund and other critical organizations are in place.

“Knowing that there is a lot of discretionary approach to the utilization of their funds, I thought if there is anyone in this whole country that I need to develop a good relationship with, it would be the Executive Secretary of TETFund.

When we met during the electioneering period, Professor Bogoro explained to me that TETFund is apolitical and this night is a demonstration of what we spoke about at that particular time. One thing I have learnt from Professor Bogoro is to make an impact. As leaders, we just have to keep it very simple,” the Governor said.

In his response, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro expressed appreciation to

Governor Makinde for the honour done him and assured that the Fund would continue to support its beneficiary institutions in the state.

He also commended the Governor for paying priority attention to the development of

the education sector in the state, noting that he has raised the bar in terms of increasing annual percentage funding for education.

I am told it is 23 percent and that is definitely one of the highest in this country. I am not sure if there are more than two or three states, if any, that may surpass that percentage. That is commendable.

“Any leader that recognizes human capital as the foundation for development has established the basis for competitiveness in wherever that leader is presiding over”. For that reason, I respect Governor Makinde and the entire people of Oyo State that are supporting him to do all these,” the Executive Secretary said.

Implementation Committee on Collaboration between Science Ministry, TETFund, Inaugurated

An Implementation Committee on the collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has been inaugurated.

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Mohammed Bello Umar along with the

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro performed the inauguration ceremony at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja recently.

The 10-man committee which comprises officials from both the Ministry and TETFund was inaugurated as a follow-up to a Memorandum of Understanding signed



The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Science & Technology, Dr. Mohammed Bello Umar (right), during the Inauguration of the Implementation Committee on the collaboration between the Ministry and TETFund. With him is the Executive Secretary of TETFund Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro.

between both parties in January 2020 to boost Research and Development (R&D) for the technological and overall economic development of the country.

Speaking during the inauguration, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Mohammed Bello Umar commended the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and his team for their support and commitment to the collaboration.

Dr. Umar stated that the partnership between the Ministry and TETFund is geared towards driving the Nigerian economy through Science and Technology with adequate funding because no country in the world could thrive without Science and Technology.

The Permanent Secretary lamented that Nigeria used to be ahead of several countries such as India and South Korea in terms of technology, but that most of them have overtaken

the country.

He therefore, expressed confidence that the collaboration would foster the relationship between TETFund and research institutes to help accelerate the country's technological and economic development.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro recalled the efforts of the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu towards the collaboration and expressed appreciation for his commitment and support.

The Executive Secretary also thanked the Permanent Secretary for his cooperation. He described the inauguration of the Implementation Committee as a paradigm shift between the Ministry and TETFund and reiterated the commitment of TETFund in collaborating with relevant agencies to making research a veritable instrument in national

development.

He stated that for the National Research Fund (NRF) Grant which has been increased to N7.5 billion in 2020 from the N5 billion approved in 2019, TETFund has made amendments to include non-state entities and also invite private research institutes and educational institutions for research purposes.

Membership of the Committee include the Director, R&D/Centres of Excellence of TETFund, Dr. Salihu Girei Bakari and Director, Planning, Research and Policy, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Ken Onwumbiko who will serve as Co-chairs.

Others are Director, Renewable and Conventional Technology, Isa Buba; Special Adviser to the Permanent Secretary, Jamil Shehu Narwarai; Director, Science and Technology Promotion, Shu'aibu Alhaji Umaru and Director, Legal Services, Mrs Yvonne Odu-Thomas, all from the Ministry.

Members from TETFund are Ag. Director, Education Support Services, Mr. Kolapo Okunlola; Ag. Director ICT, Mr. Joseph Odo; Head, Academic Staff Training and Development, Mohammed Sani Suleiman and Technical Assistant to the Executive Secretary on R&D Matters, Dr. Mustapha Popoola.

Mrs. Briggs Bows Out of Office Amidst Encomiums



The Outgoing Director, Public Affairs Department, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Mrs. Ngoba Priye Briggs (3rd right); her husband, Dr. Priye Briggs and members of Staff of the Department during a send-forth ceremony organized in her honour

received while at the Fund and assured that she would always be willing to contribute to the continuous growth of the Fund, even in retirement.

Mrs. Ngoba Priye Briggs studied Animal Science at the University of Calabar and later delved into Accountancy. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

Former Director of Public Affairs of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Mrs. Ngoba Priye Briggs has bowed out of public service after over 31 years of meritorious service amidst encomiums from management, staff and friends.

Speaking at a send-off organized by staff of the Fund, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro who was represented by the Director, Finance and Investments, Alhaji Idris Saidu commended Mrs. Briggs for her commitment to duties while in the service of the Fund.

Prof. Bogoro also commended the former Director for her

display of accountability and adherence to due process in the performance of her job and wished her a happy post-retirement life.

Others who spoke glowingly about Mrs. Briggs include the Director, Research and Development/Centres of Excellence, Dr. Salihu Girei Bakari; Acting Director Education Support Services, Mr. Kolapo Okunlola; Deputy Director, Executive Secretary's Office, Arc. Babatunde Olajide, Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Abdulmumin Oniyangi among others.

In her reaction, Mrs. Briggs thanked staff of the Fund for the cooperation and support she

She started her working career in 1989 with the Nigerian Students Loan Board and worked there for 10 years before transferring her service to Education Tax Fund (ETF), now Tertiary Education Trust Fund in 1999 as a Senior Loans Officer.

Mrs. Briggs served the Fund for over 21 years. She worked in the Department of Finance & Investments for over 19 years; briefly in the Department of Funds Generation (now Strategic Planning Department) and was Head of the Internal Audit Unit for 11 months. She retired as Director, Public Affairs, having worked for about five months in that capacity.

ATAP Lecturers Distance Selves from False Allegations Against Bogoro



From R-L: Deputy Speaker, Bauchi State House of Assembly, Hon. Abdulmumini Bala Fanti, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Commissioner of Education Bauchi State, Dr Aliyu Tilde and the Rector, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Dr. Suleiman M. Lane, During the official commissioning of some TETFund projects at the Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi State

Lecturers at Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic (ATAP), Bauchi have distanced themselves from false allegations levelled against the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro in national dailies by one of them, Dr Ibrahim Sanusi over the issue of TETFund stranded scholars.

Speaking in the presence of his colleagues, spokesperson of the stranded lecturers Mr.

Osifo Aibuedefe Stephen stated that Dr Sunusi was not following due process in pursuing the case opining that he should have pursued his entitlements through the school management.

The lecturers opined that the Executive Secretary who is a man of integrity and one of the few respected elder statesmen in the country, has promised, as they learnt, to look into the cases of the stranded lecturers with a view to addressing

them, adding that the series of letters published in some newspapers by Dr. Sanusi were not with their consent.

It would be recalled that the Fund in response to Dr. Sanusi's false allegations had stated that his article and some other misrepresentations are mostly mischievous and poorly aimed at discrediting TETFund, which had lately been re-energized and refocused for better performance and relevance by Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro.

THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF R & D THROUGH PROBLEM-SOLVING RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDUSTRY: THE INESCAPABLE CATALYST FOR NIGERIA'S VERITABLE QUEST FOR A MORE COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

Key Note Address

by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, (FAS), at the Inauguration of Tetfund's Research and Development (R&D) Standing Committee (RDSC) on 24th September, 2020 at Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
By the Hon Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu



The Executive Secretary of TETFund Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, making his opening remarks at the Inauguration of the TETFund Standing Committee on R&D (Research and Development), at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

PROTOCOLS

Today, we are standing on the threshold of history as we are all gathered to witness what I consider the first step in our journey and quest to join the comity of knowledge economies of the world. It is, therefore, with a heart full of joy and a sense of fulfilment that I welcome the Honourable Minister of Education and all the distinguished and illustrious sons and daughters of Nigeria that have honoured our invitation to grace this occasion. You are welcome.

The primary purpose of our gathering here today is to officially inaugurate the Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) approved by TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT) to

redefine our focus and drive a paradigm shift in our R&D enterprise. For far too long, there has been a palpable and worrisome disconnect between the academia and industry such that research in our tertiary institutions had become merely a tool to climb the academic ladder. For industry, it was more convenient to shop for innovations and the results of research findings in other climes outside the shores of Africa. This unpatriotic and unproductive orientation, offends one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which identifies traditional and indigenous people as the centre of development.

It must first be acknowledged that the

administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has taken many significant initiatives in providing a framework for the development of Science and Technology (S&T) by main streaming it into our national development strategies. That is the way to go because the level of investment by governments in innovative research and development as well as education determines the global competitiveness of their economies (Bogoro, 2014)

Let me therefore, express my deep appreciation to the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria because of his leadership foresightedness as exemplified in the new development plan of his administration. On September 10, 2020 at the inauguration of the National Steering Committee to oversee the development of the 'Nigeria Agenda 2050 and Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP),' which succeeds 'Vision 20:2020 and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017 – 2020, Mr President stated that the main objective of the new development plans of the Federal government led by him are to lift 100 million Nigerians from poverty in the next 10 years following World Bank's projection that Nigeria will become the third most populous country in the world in 2050 with over 400 million people. According to him, the Chinese development plans, which he said had brought no fewer than 700 million people out of poverty in the last 40 years is a good example to imitate. He added that China's development agenda only suffered a setback in the first quarter of this year as a result of COVID-19 outbreak. He said COVID-19 pandemic, which has created economic crises for both Nigeria and the entire world, also has its own inherent opportunities which he said presented the country with the platform to think and chart the part of progress.

With 26 working groups and a National Steering Committee, the core driver of the new agenda going forward is QUALITY EDUCATION that will facilitate the achievement of the set deliverables within the time frame. At the core of global evolution of educational advancement especially content component of educational packages is the Research and Development. No nation in the world have attained greatness without sound and qualitative education with Research and Development playing the central developmental pivotal for sustainable development.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on world

economy manifested in Nigeria with devastating effects of slowing economic activities. Severity of COVID-19 impact on Nigerian economy recorded overall economic contraction in GDP growth rate of -6.10% by the 2nd Quarter 2020. During this period, only the Agriculture sector recorded positive growth rate at 1.58% in real terms while Industries and Services posted massive contraction of -12.05% and -6.78% growth rate respectively.

For too long, there has been a palpable and worrisome disconnect between the academia and industry such that research in our tertiary institutions were merely a means to climbing the academic ladder, and mostly for promotions, rather problem-solving for the good of our nation. For industry, it was more convenient to shop for innovations and the results of research findings in clime outside the shores of Nigeria since the academia have developed thick walls and create artificial valleys that prevent the industry to leverage Research outputs in our Tertiary institutions. Coupled with the mutual distrust between academia and industry, these factors have negated the principles of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which identifies traditional and indigenous people at the center of development.

It must be acknowledged however that the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has taken many significant initiatives in providing a framework for the development of Science and Technology (S&T) by main streaming it into our national development strategies. This can be viewed with the lens of 50% increment in the National Research Fund (NRF) of TETFund in 2020 approved Budget. Specifically, the Board of Trustee of TETFund having realized the position of content development especially the place of Research and Development in global ranking of tertiary institution recommended the increment of NRF from N5 Billion in 2019 to N7.5Billion in 2020. Mr. President through the Honorable Minister of Education Mal. Adamu Adamu graciously approved the recommendation and I am happy to inform all of us that with this feat, NRF is the foremost and largest funding window for R & D in Nigeria today. Thanks to Mr. President for his vision, and so the least we can do is to reciprocate this gesture by engaging in the R&D expedition that will result in goods and services that responds to our national aspiration and mitigate our national challenges, including the unfortunate insecurity situation in the country.

Appropriately, therefore, the main aim of gathering some of Nigeria's best brains at home and in the diaspora to drive our Science, Technology and Innovation cannot be faulted. We at TETFund believe that nothing should be spared in pursuing a deliberate investment in R & D as it remains the most potent strategy to pilot the affairs of this country towards sustainable development and global competitiveness

Our shared vision in delivering on this national assignment is the main streaming of R&D as the catalyst of inclusive growth and sustainable development of Nigeria's knowledge economy. Together at RDSC, we are on the mission of Institutionalization of R&D as the driver of Nigeria 21st Century development agenda within the context of triple helix model and more importantly quadruple helix model where the society becomes the fourth pillar of development agenda.

The main goal of RDSC is therefore "Fast tracking Nigeria's global competitiveness in product development and service delivery by leveraging innovation systems led by R&D"

The key strategic focus is:

- Institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria
- Content development in our tertiary institutions for improved global rankings
- Stimulate the development of R&D units and departments in private and public enterprises/organizations in Nigeria
- Establishment of National R&D Foundation for sustainable funding and management
- Main streaming R&D solutions for economic diversification
- Front loading R&D for policy, program and project development by governments at all levels

TOP UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA IN 2020

University	Rank*
University of Ibadan	401 – 500th
Lagos State University	501 – 600th
University of Lagos	601 – 800th
Covenant University	801 – 1000th
University of Nigeria Nsukka	1001 +

The new global ranking by Webometrics based on Digital Visibility reported as follows:

Ranking	World Rank	University
1	1233	University of Ibadan
2	1677	University of Nigeria
3	1704	Covenant University Ota
4	2077	Obafemi Awolowo University
5	2094	University of Lagos
6	2216	Ahmadu Bello University
7	2726	University of Ilorin
8	2935	Federal University of Technology Akure
9	3057	Adekunle Ajasin University
10	3182	University of Port Harcourt

Clearly, the above analysis justifies the need for today's inauguration and the need to commence work in earnest. Nigeria is yet to be well positioned globally despite our potential in human and material resources. This is the challenge I have humbly invited all of us here today to confront headlong with renewed dedication, commitment and supports. The Thematic areas of groupings were carefully selected in line with the Federal Government of Nigeria interventions through economic sustainability plan and the new development plan of Mr. President Post ERGP & Vision 2020 which expires December 2020. The ultimate goal is to crystalize this effort into the floating of a National R&D Foundation. It is our conviction that appreciable R&D funding will be the catalyst for the competitiveness of Nigeria's economy and race Nigeria towards a knowledge economy.

Nations that recognize and apply the Triple/Quadruple Helix model that espouses the synergy among Government/Development Partners, Academia/Research Institutions and Industry/Business have re-written their national narratives from the backwaters of underdevelopment to a knowledge-driven economy.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman, the world has gone beyond just decorating academics with exalted titles in our tertiary institutions and research outfits. There has to be a veritable paradigm shift in our quest for a more competitive technology and economy through a decisive

Ranking of Universities in Africa based On Research- Scimago Institution Rankings 2020

Africa Ranking	Global Ranking	Institutions
1	227	University of Cape Town, South Africa
2	243	University of Pretoria, South Africa
3	275	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
4	295	Stellenbosch University, South Africa
5	297	Cairo University
6	308	University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
7	330	University of Gondar, Ethiopia
8	343	Makerere University, Uganda
9	348	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
10	351	Covenant University, Nigeria

<https://www.scimagoir.com/rankings.php?ranking=Research>

Score Indicators of Scimago on Research

FACTOR	INDICATOR	WEIGHT
Research (50%)	Normalized Impact (NI)	13%
	Excellence with Leadership (EwL)	8%
	Output (O)	8%
	Scientific Leadership (L)	5%
	Not Own Journals (NotOJ)	3%
	Own Journals (OJ)	3%
	Excellence (Exc)	2%
	High Quality Publications (Q1)	2%
	International Collaboration (IC)	2%
	Open Access (OA)	2%
	Scientific Talent Pool (STP)	2%
Innovation (30%)	Innovative Knowledge (IK)	10%
	Patents (PT)	10%
	Technological Impact (TI)	10%
Societal (20%)	Altmetrics (AM)	10%
	Inbound Links (BN)	5%
	Web Size (WS)	5%

departure from the old order. Governments, Academia and Industry must interface in a sustainable manner that produces goods and services for local consumption and export. Any research that does not hold out commercial possibilities is, in my view, an effort in futility against the emerging realities of these times and seasons.

The establishment of the National R&D Foundation (NRDF) has become an inescapable option as the largest basket for the sustainable funding of Research and Human capital Development. The NRDF is not a Novelty. We won't waste our time rediscovering the wheel when R&D models that have transformed nations exist for us to adopt and domesticate to suit our peculiarity.

For example, in the UK, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and industrial strategy, in line with what we are trying to do here, said "our commitment to increasing UK investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 and to increase public funding for R&D to £22 billion per year 2024/25 will allow us to make major strides towards this goal. We will use this investment to raise domestic and international business investment into UK's R&D, increase economic productivity and prosperity through new products, services and Jobs and helping to transform our public service." (Sharma, A. 2020).

To galvanize our vision towards making R&D the ace and game changer in our national development agenda, the need for an appropriate law to support the establishment of a NATIONAL R & D FOUNDATION (NRDF) cannot be overstated. We need a robust institutional framework and arrangement for the NRDF. I am recommending a minimum annual budgetary threshold of One billion USD (\$1b) as the funding portfolio for this Foundation. When we consider the inevitable benefits of R&D and the socio-economic challenges in Nigeria, this amount begins to look like a drop of water in the ocean – population of 200 Million people in 2020 and projected to become double in 10 years from now! However, we are aware that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. The Holy book enjoins us not to despise the days of little beginnings.

This recommended seed money of \$1b should be considered as a necessary incentive by government to kick-start the activities of the NRDF. It is envisaged that the Private sector of the economy should pick up the gauntlet to steamroll the lofty initiative by taking ownership of it.

Honorable Minister, Sir, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, R&D is historically the most cited Metric of innovation in any economy. The Asian Tigers share development policy instruments in common which include, but not limited to disciplined and accountable government, heavy investment in human capital, particularly in science and technology, for R&D to drive their industrial development based on export promotion. A recent guideline published by The Department of Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) stated that "R & D begins when work on resolving scientific or technological uncertainty commences, and ends when that uncertainty has been resolved or abandoned. This will probably include a range of activities, part of which directly or indirectly

contribute to the advances sought". BIS established the Fact that the rate of returns from investment in R&D is Between 10 and 50 percent.

In Malaysia, taxes are imposed on rubber, palm oil and timber to fund their Research Institutes for Rubber Palm oil and forestry. Same scenario obtains in tea production in Sri-Lanka. Kenya also has special taxes on the tea, coffee and sugar industries to support her Research Foundations in those products. Reforming our Tax laws in Nigeria is imperative for us to reap the full benefits of this national foundation. We can as well leverage the corporate social responsibilities of the organized private sector to fund this evolving foundation.

The fact must not be lost that the ETF (now, TETFund) innovation has become the magic wand that has transformed both the land scape and skyline of our public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria. Credit must be given to the Academic Staff Union of Universities for thinking out of the box by making a case for the establishment of Education Trust Fund (ETF) which has metamorphosed into TETFund. ASUU's creative thinking and patriotic visioning gave Nigeria the Oxygen of Public Tertiary Education (Universities, Polytechnic and Colleges of Education) known as TETFund. The Honourable Minister, sir, permit me to challenge Nigerians, especially the egg-heads we have assembled here today to don their thinking caps and illuminate our R&D pathway for National socio-economic rejuvenation.

We shall work together in the next one week to deliver on the following major items:

- Conceptual framework for establishment of R&D foundation in Nigeria
- Strategic planning for the institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria for economic diversification, global competitiveness & knowledge economy
- Development of road map & work plan on the establishment of R&D Foundation
- Propositions on the funding arrangement & implementation strategies - R&D for Nigeria's knowledge economic development and establishment of NRDF
- Institutional and Legal framework, Agenda setting & Policy review - Institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria
- High Profile Cross cutting discussion & Draft Reports presentation

Thirteen sector-based thematic areas have been identified by the RDSC for our research attention. They are:-

1. Agriculture (including Climate Change, Food Security, Food Science and Technology, etc.)
2. Environment and Bio resources
3. Medicine - One Health (Human, Farm Animals. Wild Life, etc)
4. Pharmaceuticals
5. ICT/Digital economy
6. Petroleum/Fossil resources, Solid minerals and Mining
7. Industrialisation, Manufacturing Trade and investment & Economy
8. Engineering, Technology and Mineral science development
9. Infrastructure development
10. Education
11. Energy
12. Governance, Social development and Internal security
13. Defence and Military

The Technical Coordination Team (TCT) has been working at the back end to develop the appropriate tools, soft infrastructure and instrument to guide the whole process and make the technical session successful. With 13 Thematic groups, I foresee an outstanding outcomes of this one-week intensive engagement. With the enthusiasm I see here, the future of R&D and indeed Nigeria, looks encouraging. With the human capital on ground, there is no reason why we should not be hobnobbing the high and mighty in the global knowledge community. In the words of President Muhammadu Buhari:

"My administration will take concrete actions to correct the neglect of research, science and technology by past governments. My administration will dedicate more resources and energy to the sector because no country could make progress without serious commitment to the development of science and technology" (Buhari, 2015)".

The potentials and vast resources in this country are unfathomable. Indeed, they are mind boggling.

Hon Minister of Education, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Alh Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, Chairman and distinguished members of this great committee, ladies and gentlemen, the Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) that we are about to inaugurate is an epoch event in the annals of R&D in this country. May I congratulate you, Honourable Minister, eminent members of the RDSC and the supporting

Technical Coordination Team for writing your names in gold on the plaque of R&D in Nigeria. History will not forget you and posterity will not forsake you!

Honourable Minister of Education, members of the National Assembly here present, Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Education, members of the RDSC and TCT and my dear colleagues from NUC, NBTE and NCCE and other regulatory bodies in the Education Sector, may it be said soon

that today's historic event is a veritable watershed in changing the narrative and especially the relationship and indeed, new marriage between the Academia and Industry, so that the research community would be seen to have tied a bond that will outlive all of us.

Thank you for being part of this story. I welcome you and thank you all for coming. Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria. God bless our country and may God bless all of you

University of Abuja Plans World Class Publishing Centre



Prof. Na'Allah further expressed the readiness of the university to work with TETFund, stating that with the Fund's support, the university would reach greater heights compared to its current state.

Also speaking at the event, Alhaji Kashim-Imam expressed delight to be at the university stating that it was his official visit to any institution as TETFund BOT Chairman.

He expressed concerns about the current developmental state of the university, stating that in view of its location in the Federal Capital Territory, the institution should be highly recognized and be able to attract presidents and other international personalities for conferences and other events.

He stated that besides the N5 billion SIP allocation to the university, a further N5 billion grant would be provided for TETFund's impact to be made in the institution, in addition to 2000 bed space hostel accommodation.

The Vice Chancellor of University of Abuja, Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah has stated that the university intends to have one of the best publishing centres in Nigeria and the world at large, where professionals with high level of academic understanding in the field of Publishing Press and able to provide quality training can be identified.

The Vice Chancellor stated this when he received the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Alhaji Ibrahim Kashim-Imam who led a delegation from the Fund on an inspection of TETFund's

Academic Publishing Centre and other projects at the university recently.

Prof. Na'Allah also expressed appreciation to TETFund for its allocation of N5 billion Special Intervention Project (SIP) to the university, adding that the funds would be used for the construction of an International Conference Centre, New Senate Building, landscape and road infrastructure in the institution.

He thanked Alhaji Kashim-Imam for the visit, saying it was the first time a TETFund BOT Chairman would be visiting the University for inspection of projects.

JULY



AMOKO John Kayode
July 1st



OKONUFUA Olufunke
July 1st



AHMAD Ali Muhammad
July 1st



IBRAHIM Abdullah
July 1st



OLAJIDE Babatunde Oladapo
July 4th



ONUKA Esther Motunrayo
July 4th



MAIKUDI Umar Sani
July 4th



ABDULKAREEM Tukur
July 5th

JULY



ADEYINKA Alice Kehinde
July 5th



ERIVWO Ebruphio Inene
July 5th



GOTALA Mustapha Gana
July 7th



NUHU Job
July 7th



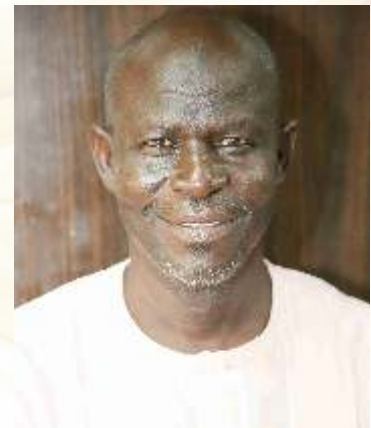
AJAYI Bosede Olanike
July 7th



MUSA Salisu
July 8th



DAWODU Peter Omekeshimi
July 9th



GARBA Musa
July 12th

JULY



YAHAYA Nura Garko
July 14th



YOHANNA Habila Optimist
July 14th



NDUKWE Chinyere Chioma
July 15th



UMAR Bukar Yakaka
July 15th



ADEWOLE Maria Geraldine
July 16th



ABDUL Khalil
July 17th



MOHAMMED Garba Sabonsara
July 20th



ILIYA Aisha Ibrahim
July 22nd

JULY



ADAMU Abubakar
July 24th



TAIWO Luqman Adedeji
July 24th



ASIMOLOWO Musibau Abiodun
July 24th



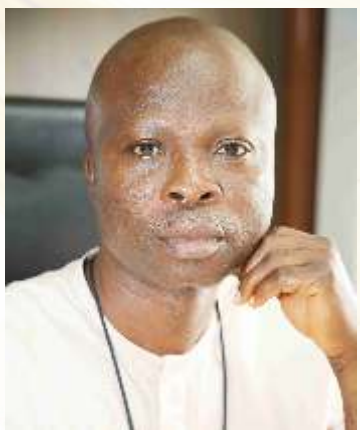
DATTIJO Ahmed Kagara
July 25th



NWANKWO Stella Ngozi
July 27th



MAI-ALBASA Danladi Ahmed
July 27th



SAMUEL Julius Adeniyi
July 27th



OKOLO Kalu Okoro
July 27th



KOR Leticia Kpenbeen
July 30th

AUGUST



BUHARI Mikailu
August 1st



MAHADI Bello Ibrahim
August 1st



ABDULLAI Adenike Folahanmi
August 2nd



EBIKWO Faith
August 3rd



HARUNA Emmanuel
August 4th



ABDULLAHI Kamila Ango
August 6th



OLUGBODE Funsho Tolulope
August 6th



CHUKWUMERIJE Azuka Juachi
August 7th

AUGUST



CHUKWU Sylvester Ogba
August 8th



PHILIPS David Olusegun
August 8th



MUHAMMED Umar Suru
August 8th



IDUMA Tochukwu Abani
August 9th



OZO Nduka Agbadu
August 10th



TORO Shanum Christopher
August 10th



SANUSI Jaji Sambo
August 12th



BRIGGS Ngoba Priye
August 16th

AUGUST



CHIKWELU Nkiru Jane Iyke
August 16th



MUSA Abdullahi
August 16th



CHUKWU Nnayere Nnaemeka
August 17th



GOGWIM Matilda
August 18th



FAGADE Maimuna
August 20th



NAFI'U Abubakar Babaji
August 22nd



ODEY Augustine
August 25th



OMODELE Vinah Uchenna
August 26th

AUGUST



OGBU Michael
August 25th



DAMILEP Persis Ibrahim
August 26th



WOGU Uchendu Ikechi M.
August 28th



MUSA Tasiu
August 28th



ADAMU Hamman
August 28th



EZENWA Samuel Chinenyeze
August 29th



RUFAI Asutudi
August 30th

SEPTEMBER

ABDULLAHI Grema Hashim
September 1st



SALIHU Girei Bakari
September 5th



ACHIV Mary Mngohol
September 5th



ANGELO Abraham
September 6th



GALLANT Dorcas Wakili
September 8th



JULIUS Oluwafunto Peace
September 12th



ADAMU Maryam Umaru
September 12th



ISHAYA Daniel Mingyi
September 14th

SEPTEMBER



ATTACHIRU Safiya Jega
September 17th



MUHAMMED Bello Sadiq
September 17th



OKAFOR Jennifer
September 17th



KWEKWE Michael
September 19th



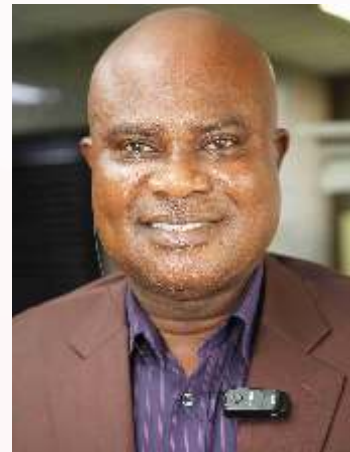
NWOBU Ogoma Evelyn
September 19th



OLORUNFEMI-IRIABIJE Kate
September 22nd



MAMU Hadiza Abubakar
September 22nd



UDOMA Solomon Okon
September 23rd

SEPTEMBER



OYELADE Mary Funmi
September 24th



UGBANA Victoria Oluchukwu
September 24th



SADIQ Mohammed Fatima
September 25th



YAHAYA Kamal
September 26th



AUGUSTINE Monday
September 26th



DANHABU Yakubu
September 27th



TIJJANI Ibrahim
September 27th



EMENIKE Gloria Chinaenye
September 29th



OTHMAN Nasir Lawal
September 29th



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