

**Special
Edition**

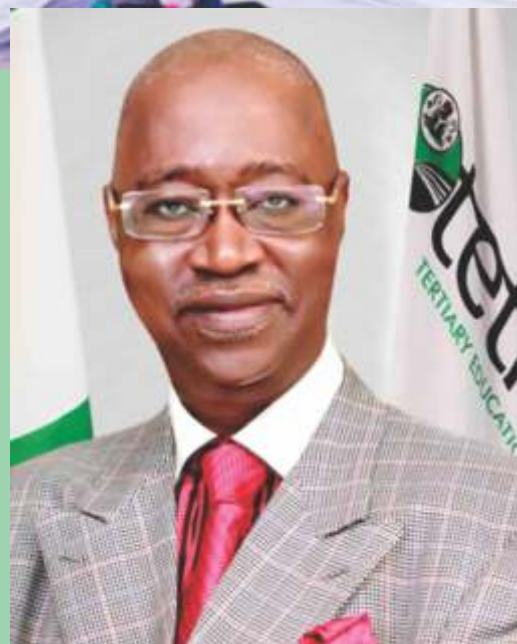
President Buhari Approves 12 Centres of Excellence in Nigerian Universities



Baaba

P7► **Goes Home**

**President
Buhari**
Appoints
Kashim
Ibrahim-Imam
as TETFund
BOT Chairman



P5►

OUR VISION

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

TETFUND 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

Hello...

This special edition of TETFund Panorama is dedicated to the President Muhammadu Buhari-led Administration for its efforts in tackling the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in Nigeria since the index case was recorded in the country on February 28, 2020.

The edition focuses among other stories, the approvals granted to TETFund by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, for the establishment of 12 Centres of Excellence in Nigerian Public Universities and six Medical Simulation, Research and Training facilities in six Colleges of Medicine; spread across the six geo-political zones of the country.

Also in this edition, the appointment of Alhaji Ibrahim Kashim-Imam as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TETFund by the President and the 2020 Board Retreat held in Abuja are featured. Also featured are the new Chairman's profile and his full address at the Board of Trustees Retreat.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro featured on Channels and Arise Television's Covid-19 programmes and spoke about the efforts of the Fund in supporting research for a vaccine for the virus and other infectious diseases. Details of the interviews can be found in this edition.

Still on Covid-19, there are stories about TETFund's liaison with key partners in the fight against the virus and the distribution of relief materials by the Fund.

As a mark of respect for late Hajiya Fatima Adamu Gamawa, mother "of the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu and matriarch of the Adamu family, the Fund in this edition, pays tribute to Baaba as she was fondly called before her death.

Tribute is also paid to late Prof. Israel Folorunso Adu, a member of TETFund's National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC).

Special recognition was given to the Executive Secretary of the Fund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro as he was named by Leadership Newspapers as Public Service Person of the Year 2019. In the same vein, Business Day also announced Prof. Bogoro as one of the winners of its Excellence in Public Service Awards 2019. Details of the events including pictures are featured in this edition.

Happy reading and please send comments and suggestions for improved service delivery.

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President Buhari Approves 12 Centres of Excellence in Nigerian Universities



Those of State Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education will follow in subsequent years.

The focus areas of the Centres of Excellence, in line with contemporary practice in the more competitive economies and technologies would be mainly in science-based disciplines.

The President's approval, which came upon the recommendation of the TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT) and endorsement of the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, is to signify a major paradigm shift in favour of Research and Excellence in Nigerian

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the establishment of the first set of 12 "TETFund Centres of Excellence", with two in each of the six geo-political zones of the country, hosted by first, second and third generation universities, in the first instance in the Year 2020.

Universities and also demonstrate the Federal Government's resolve to directly establish and fund Centres of Excellence besides the African Centres of Excellence (ACE) funded by the World Bank.

Detail of the Centres of Excellence and their titles

S/N	ZONE	UNIVERSITY	TITLE OF PROPOSED CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
1.	South West	University of Ibadan	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies
2.	South West	University of Lagos	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management
3.	South South	University of Benin	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Aquaculture and Food Technology
4	South South	University of Uyo	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Computational Intelligence
5.	South East	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	TETFund Cente of Excellence in Biomedical, Agricultural and Engineering Translational Studies
6.	South East	Micheal Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Root Crop Research and Development
7.	North West	Bayero University, Kano (BUK)	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Renewable Energy
8.	North West	Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Urology and Nephrology
9.	North East	University of Maiduguri	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Arid Zone Research and Development
10.	North East	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) , Bauchi	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security
11.	North Central	University of Abuja	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Public Governance and Leadership
12.	North Central	University of Jos	TETFund Centre of Excellence in Food Security



Mallam Adamu Adamu
Honorable Minister of Education

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the funding of six medical simulation, research and training facilities in Colleges of Medicine in the country through TETFund, with each of the six geo-political zone in the country playing host to one. The centres are to be sited at:

- i. Bayero University, Kano (NW)
- ii. University of Jos (NC)
- iii. ATBU, Bauchi (NC)

COVID-19: President Buhari Approves Funding of 6 Medical Simulation Centres

- iv. Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (SE)
- v. University of Ibadan (SW)
- vi. University of Port Harcourt (SS)

Following the presidential approval, the Honorable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu has directed that the facilities should include Molecular Science Laboratories with capacity for testing and diagnosing of COVID-19, Lassa fever and other related viral diseases.

Mallam Adamu emphasized that besides ongoing research work in response to COVID-19 and similar diseases through TETFund's National Research Fund (NRF), the Research Community of the Federal Ministry of Education should undertake any other sundry contributions in support of the commendable efforts of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 in responding to the threat of the pandemic in Nigeria.

The Honourable Minister commended the initiatives of TETFund in providing a special research grant window towards treatment or vaccine against COVID-19 and assured that Government would continue to support relevant research aimed at addressing national challenges and needs.

President Buhari Appoints Kashim Ibrahim-Imam as TETFund BOT Chairman

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the appointment of Alhaji Kashim-Ibrahim-Imam as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

In a letter signed by the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, the appointment took effect from May 14, 2020 and is for a renewable term of four years.

The letter read in part: "I write to convey to you the approval of His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, of your appointment as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Abuja with effect from May 14, 2020".



Kashim-Ibrahim-Imam
Mutawallin Borno
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)



Profile of Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam (Mutawalli Borno), Chairman TETFund Board of Trustees

Al h a j i Kashim Ibrahim-Imam (Mutawalli Borno) is from the Maiduguri Metropolitan Council in Borno State.

He is a seasoned entrepreneur, public servant, philanthropist

and a founding member of the ruling party, the All Progressive Congress (APC).

The Mutawalli of Borno who also has extensive interest in banking, pensions, revenue generation, agriculture, manufacturing, financial services, construction and property development is the Chairman of many blue chip companies including First Guarantee Pensions Plc, Unicapital Plc (Investment Bankers), Alpha Property Development Ltd and Golden Acres Farms.

Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam was educated at the famous King's College, Lagos and thereafter, obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at the Ahmadu

Bello University, Zaria. He also obtained a Master of Science degree in International Economics Relations from the University of Maiduguri.

He is a philanthropist per excellence and has initiated, supported and completed several charitable projects all over Nigeria in line with his personal Philosophy of '**Service to Humanity**'.

Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam has an exemplary track record in public service at the Federal Level having served as Presidential Adviser/Liaison Officer to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria between 1999 and 2003. In this role, he was instrumental to the harmonious working relationship that existed between the Executive and the Legislature within that period.

He is a truly detribalized and patriotic Nigerian and has been recognized and honoured with several chieftaincy titles from various parts of the country

He currently serves as the President of King's College Old Boys Association which is the foremost Alumni Network in Nigeria.

President Buhari Approves N7.5 Billion Research Grants for TETFund

President Muhammadu Buhari has approved an increase of the National Research Fund (NRF) grant managed by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), from an initial amount of N3 billion to N7.5 billion for the year 2020.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro made this known while speaking at the 2020 TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT) Retreat held in Abuja recently.

Prof. Bogoro stated that the latest approval by President Buhari makes TETFund the largest holder of research grants in Nigeria.

The Executive Secretary further stated that President Buhari also approved the establishment of six medical simulation, research and training facilities in six Colleges of Medicine, with each of the

six geo-political zone in the country playing host to one.

The approval, he said, provided an opportunity for TETFund to provide 12 Covid-19 and related infectious disease molecular laboratories, two in each geo-political zones, thus making TETFund the highest single provider of Covid-19 test centres in Nigeria.

Still speaking on the Fund's efforts at supporting the Federal Government in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria, Prof. Bogoro added that the TETFund's Board of Trustees also gave approval for the sponsorship of some Covid-19 research proposals to the tune of over N200 million mainly from universities and NAFDAC. This, he stated, was one of the reasons TETFund was recently made the Secretariat of the National Covid-19 Research Consortium (NCRC).



The youthful years



The older years



In pensive mode

Baaba Goes Home

*Tribute to Late Hajiya Fatima Adamu Gamawa,
Mother of the Honourable Minister of Education,
Mallam Adamu Adamu*

Baaba and her late husband Malam Adamu Gamawa were married for more than eighty [80] years and were blessed with nine (9) children, (unfortunately one of them pre-deceased her-Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu); eight (8) however, survived her including the present Minister of Education; Malam Adamu Adamu, Hajiya Hafsat Adamu, Hajiya Hauwa'u Adamu, Alhaji Lawal Adamu: others are Hajiya Zainab (Iya) Adamu, Alhaji Umaru Adamu, Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu and Alhaji Ibrahim Adamu.

Baaba was known for her great mathematician skills and gave solutions to complicated and knotty

Hajiya Fatima Adamu Gamawa fondly called Baaba, was the matriarch of the Adamu family and lived to see her great grandmother. She was an icon of hope and discipline to her family and the society.

Baaba was born in Katagum on 17th Rabi'ul-Awwal 1333AH, which made her 108 years old according to the Islamic calendar, equivalent to 107 years on the Gregorian. Although she was old and frail, Baaba died in full possession of every bit of all her faculties. Her sight, hearing, power of reasoning and her reflexes were intact and equivocal at the time of her transition. She enjoyed fresh mixed-fruit juice as her favorite.



The Honourable Minister of Education Mal. Adamu Adamu having a chat with his mother, Hajiya Fatima Adamu Gamawa.



The Honorable Minister of Education Mal. Adamu Adamu arriving home for Baaba's Funeral



Baaba with some of her Grand Son

arithmetical computations referred to her; with confidence and accuracy until her demise.

Baaba lived a life worthy of emulation; she often used to say that every human desire or temptation is temporary, while the consequences or shame of yielding to it can be permanent and permanently demeaning. Her greatest virtue was selfless giving, she always preached that, provided it is done out of legitimate earnings; as she often asserted that; nothing distances a person from the race of God more than the consumption of illegitimate earnings. According to her, whether you give or not, in the end, you must leave both what you gave and what you withhold back. Lastly, she taught her children to be kind, for kindness is only meaningful when there is significant sacrifice.

Baaba transited peacefully in the early hours of Friday 23 April, 2020. May Allah forgive Baaba, make Jannatul Firdausi her abode and give her family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen.



The former Governor of Bauchi State, Alh. Ahmadu Mu'azu and other dignitaries pay a condolence visit to the family



Baaba with some of her Grand Children and Family Members

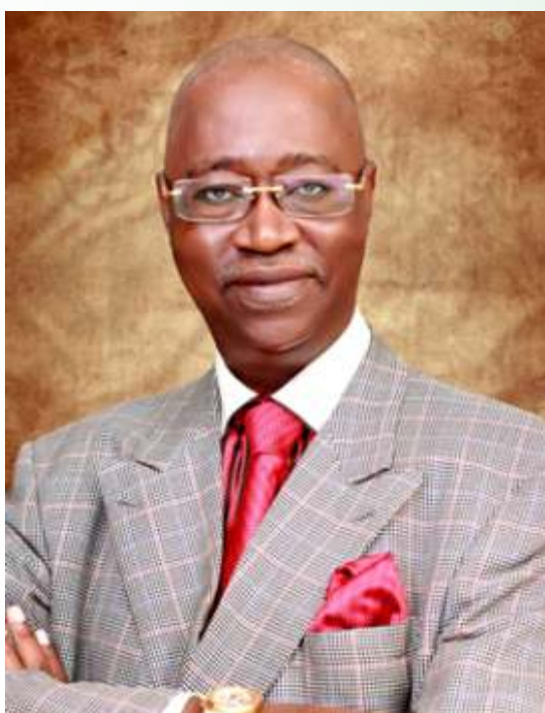


Baaba with some of her Grand Children



1st row (L-R) Dr. Mas'udu A. Kazare (NBTE), Alh. Isah Tijjani, Trustee (NW), Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (ES, TETFund), Alh Kashim Ibrahim-Imam (Chairman BoT), Arc. Sonny Echono (Perm. Sec. Min. of Education), Chief Uchenna Ufearoh, Trustee (SE) and Dr. Clever Fiepre Aprebo, Trustee (SS).
2nd row (L-R) Prof. Hafiz Abubakar (Former Trustee NW- Invited Resource Person), Mrs. Roseline Kolade (Rep. Min. of Finance), Barr. Adamu Abubakar (Director, HR&GA Dept.) and Alh. Mohammed Ciroma, Trustee (NE)

New BOT Chairman Expresses Determination to Build on TETFund's Achievement



Alh Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, Chairman BoT TETFund

The new Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam has expressed the determination of the Board to build on what has been achieved at TETFund and improve the management of the Fund's interventions in public tertiary institutions in the country.

The Chairman who expressed the determination of the Board while speaking at the 2020 TETFund Board of Trustees Retreat held in Abuja recently also stated that the BOT would also seek an

increase in both revenue collection and return on investments of the Fund.

Alhaji Ibrahim-Imam further stated that the Fund would scale up the provision of fit-for-purpose infrastructure, result-oriented research, and cutting-edge technology in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria. These, he assured, would be done with utmost integrity.

While highlighting some of the key achievements of the Fund between 2016 and 2019, the new BOT Chairman stated that TETFund had within the period funded 80 auditorium lecture theatres, 500 classrooms, 2383 administrative and staff offices and 250 science laboratories across beneficiary institutions in the country.

Also funded were 40 fully equipped libraries, 38 ICT centres, 8 medical centres and bays, 100 vehicles for academic field research trips and provision of major infrastructure in the 12 newly established federal universities.

Alhaji Ibrahim-Imam added that to further consolidate on TETFund's achievements, the Fund has made provision in its 2020 Budget for emergency special intervention to the University of Abuja and special high impact projects to six universities, one from each geo-political zone.

He also noted that the agency will also provide take-off grants to the six newly created federal polytechnics and six colleges of education in each geo-political zone among other projects.

TETFund in Liaison with Key Parties in Fight Against COVID-19 – Prof. Bogoro



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

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro has stated that the Fund is presently in constructive liaison with key parties and stakeholder entities in the fight against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Nigeria.

This was made known in a publication issued by the Fund as a response to support the Federal Government's efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Bogoro stated that the liaison with the stakeholders is with the hope of identifying specific entry points from where research by hugely talented medical experts in Nigerian Universities, Colleges of Medicine, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes, Centres of Excellence among others, can be initiated and funded towards short term medical palliatives, but more importantly, towards breakthrough in World Health Organization (WHO)-certified vaccines against COVID-19 and other diseases.

This, he said, would go a long way to consolidate on the new R&D drive in Nigerian tertiary institutions which has led to the emergence of production of sanitizers, prototype ventilators and PPEs in universities across the country.

The Executive Secretary added that the Fund has also recommended the provision of modern medical simulation equipment in six Colleges of Medicine in the country, all aimed at reversing avoidable medical tourism by Nigerians which leads to capital flight.

Prof. Bogoro, on behalf of the Fund, appreciated the commendable steps taken by President Muhammadu Buhari in addressing the Nation on the COVID-19 pandemic threat to the lives and wellbeing of Nigerians, the constitution of the high level Presidential Task Force and immediate pronouncement of several relief measures and stimulus packages, for which citizens and other developmental agencies have commended government.

He stated that at a time when nations of the world have closed borders to most businesses, including Executive Orders stopping export of life-saving medical supplies, the Fund better appreciates the wisdom of the President in approving the scaling up of TETFund's National Research Fund (NRF) Grant by his unprecedented approval of N5 billion for the 2019 NRF Calls for Proposal, at the end of which 128 Research Grants were recommended and approved with the tacit endorsement of the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu.

COVID-19: TETFund Donates Relief Items



The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has donated relief items across the six geo-political zones of the country and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in support of the Federal Government's effort at mitigating the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has adversely affected economies all over the world.

The items which were meant for distribution to various households across the country were handed over to state governments and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19.



Items donated included bags of rice, Semolina and cartons of spaghetti with each zone receiving a total of 8,320 bags of rice, 4,834 bags of semolina and 1,533 cartons of spaghetti.

The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 received a total of 16,640 bags of rice, 9,668 bags of semolina and 3,066 cartons of spaghetti.

Several state governments and stakeholders have commended the efforts of the Fund in cushioning the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic among the citizens.



TETFund Partners Ministry of Health, NCDC, NUC, others on Covid-19 Research

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has entered into partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Universities Constitution (NUC), Nigeria Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) and Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) to combat the deadly coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in Nigeria.

The partnership has resulted in the establishment of the National Covid-19 Research Consortium

(NCRC) which coordinates R&D activities on Covid-19 in Nigeria with the Secretariat sited at the TETFund Headquarters in Abuja.

It would be recalled that the Fund has actively supported the efforts of the Federal Government in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria through various measures including provision of relief materials across the six geo-political zones, sponsorship of some Covid-19 research proposals to the tune of over N200 million, mainly from the universities and NAFDAC among others.



Tertiary Education Trust Fund

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Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria. Tel. 08141618921
www.tetfund.gov.ng

TETFund sponsored Simulation, Research and Training Centres in Colleges of Medicine

The Honourable Minister of Education Malam Adamu Adamu, has directed that consequent to approval of President Muhammadu Buhari, for the funding of six medical simulation, research and training facilities in Colleges of Medicine (one per geopolitical zone) in the country through TETFund, the facilities should include the provision of Molecular Science Laboratories with capacity for testing and diagnostics of COVID-19, Lassa Fever, and related viral diseases.

2. The Honourable Minister emphasized that, besides ongoing research work in response to COVID-19 and similar diseases through the TETFund National Research Fund (NRF), the Research Community of the Federal Ministry of Education should undertake any other sundry contributions in support of the commendable efforts of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) in responding to the threat of COVID-19 in Nigeria.

3. He commended the initiatives of TETFund in providing a special research grant window towards treatment or vaccine against COVID-19. Additionally, he assured the Fund that the Federal government will continue to support relevant research aimed at addressing national challenges and needs.

Signed: Mrs. Ngoba Priye Briggs
Director, Public Affairs
For: The Executive Secretary

Establishment of TETFund Centres of Excellence

The President, Muhammadu Buhari, has approved the establishment of the first set of twelve TETFund Centres of Excellence, with two Centres of Excellence in each of the six geopolitical zones, hosted by first, second and third generation Universities, in the first instance in the year 2020.

2. Those of State Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education will follow in subsequent years. The focus areas of the Centres of Excellence, in line with contemporary practice in the more competitive economies and technologies, are mainly in science-based disciplines.

3. The approval, which came upon recommendation of TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT) and endorsement of the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, is to signify a major paradigm shift in favour of Research and Excellence in our Universities, but also demonstration that Federal Government has decided to directly establish and fund Centres of Excellence besides the ones funded by the World Bank, being the African Centres of Excellence (ACE).

4. Details of the operations and guidelines for the inaugural TETFund Centre of Excellence are to be issued by the Fund.

Signed: Buhari Mikailu FNIQS
Director, Physical Infrastructure Development
For: The Executive Secretary

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFund), ALHAJI KASHIM IBRAHIM-IMAM, DELIVERED AT THE TETFUND RETREAT HELD ON JUNE 24, 2020 AT FRASER SUITES, ABUJA.

Protocols

1. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this first retreat of the Board of Trustees of TETFund since my recent appointment as the Chairman of the Board. This retreat will hopefully serve as an opportunity for us to exchange ideas and foster good team spirit so that we can collectively make TETFund an epitome of excellence.

2. TETFund has contributed immensely to one of our most critical sectors of national development, i.e. tertiary education, by impacting positively on infrastructure, research and scholarship. Between 2016-2019, TETFund funded the following key projects amongst others:

- i 80 auditorium lecture theatres across tertiary institutions
- ii 500 classrooms
- iii 2,383 administrative and staff offices
- iv 40 fully equipped libraries
- v 250 science laboratories
- vi 38 ICT centres
- vii 8 medical centres and sick bays
- viii 100 vehicles (truck and buses) for academic field research trips
- ix major infrastructures in the 12 newly established universities.

To consolidate these achievements, provision has been made for the following in TETFund's 2020



The Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim -Imam fielding questions from the Press during the 2020 TETFund Bot Retreat held in Abuja

budget:

- i Emergency special intervention to the University of Abuja which is the nation's capital;
- ii Special high impact projects to six universities, one from each geo political zone;
- iii Funding of six selected colleges of medicine, one from each geo-political zone as simulation centres and part of COVID-19 interventions as highlighted by the ES;
- iv Take-off grants to six newly created Federal polytechnics, one to each geo-political zone
- v Take-off grants to six newly created Colleges of Education, one in each geo-political zone;
- vi Funding of 12 research and development centers of excellence;
- vii Facilities upgrade for National Open University;
- viii Completion of accommodation for Nigerian Defence Academy.

- ix Completion of various abandoned projects across tertiary institutions.
3. As a board, we are determined to build on what has been achieved and improve the management of TETFund's interventions in tertiary institutions. We will seek increase in both revenue collection and return on investment of the fund. We will scale up the provision of fit-for-purpose infrastructure, result-oriented research, and cutting-edge technology to our tertiary institutions. And we will do all these with utmost integrity.
4. His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, has made the fight against corruption one of the cardinal objectives of this administration, and he has led by example. Even the worst of Mr. President's critics will readily concede that his integrity is beyond question. The Hon. Minister of Education, Mal. Adamu Adamu our immediate boss, is a man of uncommon probity. He is without doubt one of the very few public office holders in Nigeria today who is incorruptible. His integrity is beyond reproach. I will like to assure you that the Board under my leadership will take cues from the two of them in the implementation of all our intervention programmes.
5. In the past five years since His Excellency, President Buhari assumed the leadership of this country, close to N1trillion naira has accrued to TETFund to address humongous challenges of educational infrastructure and research funding confronting the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. To whom much is given, much is expected. Despite various interventions by TETFund, our tertiary institutions still have inadequate lecture theatres, research laboratories, hostels and ICT facilities. In the area of accommodation, it is a known fact that the number of bed spaces in our tertiary institutions is only 10-15% of the student population. For example, the University of Abuja has a thousand bed spaces for thirty thousand students. Also, University of Calabar has two thousand bed spaces for fifty five thousand students. These amount to 3.3% and 3.7% respectively.
6. In 2019, N5 billion was budgeted for research and N4 billion was accessed. In 2020, N7.5 billion has been budgeted for research. It is considered best practice to determine the extent of research contributions to our national development with a view of measuring its relevance. The Board under my leadership will achieve this
7. As said earlier, TETFund has achieved a lot. But the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement. Among others, TETFund can and should strive to do better in the areas of fund disbursement, project execution, monitoring and evaluation. There is public perception, rightly or wrongly, that benefits of the fund accrue only to a few. We have to make a deliberate and conscious effort to change these negative perceptions. We will need to rise to the challenge and embark on reforms where necessary. The Board of Trustees will democratise the benefits of all TETFund projects by spreading the benefits across a broad spectrum of Nigerians.
8. Unlike most other Boards, ours is a Board of Trustees. The Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, places on the Board enormous responsibilities. He highlighted the responsibilities of the board shall be responsible but not limited to the following:
- i. To monitor and ensure collection of education tax by the Service, and we must ensure that same is transferred to the Fund.
 - ii. To manage and disburse the funds realised, which we must do with exemplary accountability.
 - iii. To receive request, improve and approve appropriate projects after due consideration. We must ensure that these

As a board, we are determined to build on what has been achieved and improve the management of TETFund's interventions in tertiary institutions. We will seek increase in both revenue collection and return on investment of the fund. We will scale up the provision of fit-for-purpose infrastructure, result-oriented research, and cutting-edge technology to our tertiary institutions. And we will do all these with utmost integrity.

projects meet the required standards and that the approval process is robust and transparent.

- iv. To monitor and evaluate the execution of all ongoing projects funded by TETFund across the tertiary institutions.
- v. It is also the responsibility of the board of trustees to ensure that the funds are only invested in high-yielding and safe securities.
- vi. We must regularly review progress, identify gaps and suggest improvements.
- vii. We must regulate the administration, application and disbursement of funds accruing to TETFund in full compliance with the Act.

9. It is also vital that our projects are contemporary, visionary, transparent and durable. The standard of our funded researches should compete on the world stage and aim to solve problems unique to our nation and continent at large as well as having the capability of being commercialised for revenue generation. These attributes will ensure long-term sustainability of research in our tertiary institutions through revenue generation. We shall also explore the option of research endowments to tertiary institutions, which have the advantage of ensuring perpetuity of revenue for both research and other long-term objectives in contrast to short-lived grants.

10. Furthermore, current applications of ICT in most of our tertiary institutions for teaching and research are inadequate compared to best practices across educational institutions worldwide. For instance, many of our public tertiary institutions are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but sadly students are unable to continue their education through online lectures unlike their counterparts in private universities. Today ICT has become an absolute necessity particularly with the advent of COVID-19. An ICT-enabled repository of research data would also facilitate international research collaboration; avoid duplication of research as well as generate revenue. It is therefore essential that we improve on the deployment of technologies across all beneficiary tertiary institutions.

11. As we approach our 10th anniversary next year, the board will embark on visitations to the various tertiary institutions to meet with faculty, researchers and students. This will enable us assess the impact of our various intervention efforts on both infrastructure and research in order to determine future needs. We shall task the management after this retreat to come up with a schedule of visits to the various tertiary institutions. Visit as many as possible from all geo political zones.

12. I wish to assure that the Board will not rest on its oars. I would also want to assure that the confidence reposed in all of us by His Excellency Mr. President is justified. Despite some criticisms, TETFund has contributed immensely to our tertiary educational institutions. But more still needs to be done to ensure that we have institutions that align with our needs as a country and that can compete with the best on the continent and in the world. This much the government and our country expect of us. We have to live up to, and even surpass, these legitimate and reasonable expectations.

13. I wish to thank His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the opportunity given to me to serve our country in this capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TETFund. I wish to assure that I shall live up to the lofty standards of integrity, accountability, commitment and service exemplified by Mr President.

14. I also want to seize this opportunity to extend my hand of fellowship to all my colleagues on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Secretary, Professor Suleiman Bogoro. Together we shall diligently and patriotically strive to give an excellent account of our stewardship.

15. Finally, I wish to thank the management and staff of TETFund for organising this retreat. I also wish to thank all the resource persons who will be delivering papers in the course of this retreat. I wish all of us a most productive retreat.

Thank you and God bless you all.

REPORT AND AGENDA-SETTING ADDRESS AT THE 2020 TETFUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) RETREAT BY PROF. S. E. BOGORO, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, TETFUND



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro Fielding questions from the press during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja recently

Introduction

The TETFund 2020 Board of Trustees (BOT) retreat is taking place under the leadership of the new Chairman of BOT, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam, a man with wide experience in private sector management and business. He is also a consummate politician, and has promised to work with the members of BOT and management to consolidate and further transform our Public Tertiary Institutions as well as delivering the dividends of democracy, which are the expectations of President Muhammadu Buhari as well as the Hon Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu.

Review of the last one year

For me, I remain grateful to Mr. President for graciously re-instating me to the office upon recommendation of the Hon. Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu on January 21st, 2019. Furthermore, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the patriotic co-operation of the BOT since my re-instatement, first under the Chairmanship of Barr. Emeka Nwajuiba, the Hon. Minister of State for Education who later resigned and got elected into the Federal House of Representatives, before he was subsequently appointed Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Education. For one year after his resignation, the

Hon. Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu approved that Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed, the substantive Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) takes over as Acting Chairman, TETFund BOT until early last month when the incumbent Chairman of BOT was appointed.

I wish to put it on record the co-operation I have enjoyed from both BOT and Management, in the discharge of my responsibilities as Executive Secretary/CEO of the Fund. More specifically, I wish to thank the BOT for discussing and approving virtually all the key transformative decisions and actions initiated by them or by my person at various stages between last year and this year. They include but are not limited to the following:

1. The Stakeholder inspired Paradigm shift in gradual favour of content interventions consistent with global practice of emphasizing the strengthening of faculty through deepening of

The Retreat is expected to review ways to consolidate on our achievements and be additionally innovative on new paradigms that our aspirations dictate.

Research, institutionalization of R&D and the aggressive promotion of the TRIPLE HELIX MODEL of forging a tripod partnership between the Academia, Industry and Government.

2. Along same vein, BOT endorsed the Management proposal for significant increase in the TETFund National Research Fund (NRF), from an initial N3 billion seed money to N5 billion in 2019 and then 7.5 billion in 2020, both of which were recommended by the Hon. Minister of Education and approved by President Muhammadu Buhari. Presently, and especially under the threat of COVID-19, TETFund is today acknowledged as holding the largest research grant funds in Nigeria to the credit of Mr. President.

3. I wish to thank the BOT for approving that the embarrassing cases of TETFund Stranded Scholars be addressed immediately. I can today report that, with the exception of many false claims and self-inflicted infractions by some scholars, most of the glaring cases have been sorted out, with about 10 billion Naira spent in addressing verified cases.

4. Towards addressing further some challenges faced by TETFund overseas scholars in particular, the approved period of Ph.D. studies for foreign scholars was reviewed and approved by BOT to 4 years from the 2019/2020 academic session.

5. The BOT also approved the introduction of one-year Post-doctoral Research Fellowship aimed at giving research opportunities overseas for early post-Ph.D. (1-5 years after defense) to better centers of excellence and Universities in favour of those who study in Nigeria, thereby exposing them to better research facilities abroad.

6. The BOT also recommended the unprecedented introduction of twelve "TETFUND CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE" in single disciplines or multi-disciplinary clusters of comparative advantage, initially for Universities and subsequently for Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in the years 2022 and 2023. It is recalled that before the TETFund Centres of Excellence were announced, the most visible Centres of Excellence in the Nigerian Tertiary Institutions were those of World Bank funded African Centres of Excellence (ACE) hosted and managed by NUC.

7. In addition, the BOT also endorsed and was subsequently approved by the President that six

Medical Simulation Research and Clinical Training facilities in six Colleges of Medicine (one in each geopolitical zone) are to be established this year. Individually, this provided an opportunity for twelve COVID-19 and related infectious disease Molecular Laboratories to be provided (two in each geopolitical zone), thus making TETFund the highest single provider of COVID-19 test Centres in Nigeria.

8. The BOT also approved that TETFund sponsors some COVID-19 Research proposals to the tune of over N200 million, mainly from Universities and NAFDAC, this being one of the reasons TETFund has recently been made the Secretariat for the Nigeria Covid-19 Research Consortium R&D.

9. The BOT also approved the capacity building training of Senior Academics, Professors and Researchers from our Beneficiary Institutions for Research grant writing and management skills.

10. The BOT also approved the inventorization (effectively dematerialization) of mainly Masters' and Ph.D. thesis in our tertiary institutions dating many decades backwards to constitute a data base for researchers and students to fall back on, which is a key aspect of E-learning and online academic studies globally.

11. The BOT also approved that consequent to the fact that only 15% of Nigerian students are living in hostel accommodation, TETFund should from the 2020 budget year, aggressively commit funds to reverse the embarrassment and make learning environment in our Beneficiary Institutions more attractive for local and foreign students, which is today a major foreign earner for countries like UK and USA.

12. In compliance with the directive of the Hon. Minister of Education, the BOT directed Management to make recommendations towards migration of E-learning consistent with global best practice. The recommendation of management is to be submitted at the next BOT meeting.

13. The BOT approved the recommendation of Management for a comprehensive TETFund Impact Assessment to be conducted by Independent Assessors/Consultants. The exercise which lasted six months has since been concluded by the Technical Advisory Committee on Impact Assessment (TACIA) and the Report is expected to

be formally presented by the Hon. Minister of Education, who has already been briefed.

14. Earlier in 2019, the BOT also approved the reconstitution and inauguration of the National Research Fund (NRF) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chaired by Prof. Olufemi Bamiro former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan and Prof. Ogugua Aworh, respectively. Based on reports, the feedback on the activities of the two committees are very positive. Generally, Nigerian lecturers are happy that they are involved in activities that concern them.

15. The BOT approved the production of a new 5-year Strategic Plan for TETFund (2020-2024). The exercise managed by the strategic planning Department, is led by very respected and experienced consultants and experts.

16. The BOT approved the remodeling of the TETFund Corporate office, by annexing the old GT Bank branch office to melt into the main building. Significant progress has been made in this regard, to the extent the R&D/Centre of Excellence

Department has this month moved over to its new and modern office space, which also houses the Secretariat of the Nigeria Covid-19 Research Consortium R & D activities on Covid-19 in Nigeria, in partnership with NCDC, NUC, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), Lagos, Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), and Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN).

17. The Vice President of Nigeria spoke to the Executive Secretary and updated on what TETFund has done for research, some treatment drugs, he never knew that TETFund has done so much on research, maybe the Fund need to do more to publizize it. He asked that the medium such like social media platform which is popular. TETFund should increase its publicity and ICT should be done better.

Going Forward

Going forward, the Retreat is expected to review ways to consolidate on our achievements and be additionally innovative on new paradigms that our aspirations dictate.

TETFund Provides Take off Grant to 12 New Tertiary Institutions

TETFund has provided take-off grants to twelve newly established Federal Institutions comprising Six Polytechnics and Six Colleges of Education in compliance with Presidential directive.

The new institutions are as follows:

- i. Federal Polytechnic, Daura (NW)
- ii. Federal Polytechnic, Kaltungo (NE)
- iii. Federal Polytechnic, Plateau State (NC)
- iv. Federal Polytechnic, Enugu State (SE)
- v. Federal Polytechnic, Ayede, Oyo State (SW)
- vi. Federal Polytechnic, Cross River State (SS)
- vii. Federal College of Education, Sokoto (NW)
- viii. Federal College of Education, Bauchi State (NE)
- ix. Federal College of Education, Bauchi State (NC)
- x. Federal College of Education, Ebonyi State (SE)
- xi. Federal College of Education, Osun State (SW)
- xii. Federal College of Education, Edo State (SS)



L-R: The permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny Echono; the Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam and the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja.



The Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam (right) with the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja.



L-R: The Trustee North East, Alh. Mohammed Liman Ciroma; the Executive Secretary, NBTE, Dr. Masa'udu Kazaure and the permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny Echono during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja.



The permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny Echono (left) having a chat with the Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja.



L-R: Trustee South East, Chief Uchenna Kyrian Ufearoh; Trustee South South, Dr. Clever Fiepre Aprebo; Rep. Ministry of Finance, Mrs. Roseline Kolade and Engr. Nuru Yakubu during the 2020 TETFund BoT Retreat held in Abuja.



Cross section of the 2020 TETFund BoT retreat showing the Chairman, Executive Secretary and Members deliberating during a session



Engr. Nuru Yakabu who was a resource person at the 2020 TETFund BoT retreat making a presentation during the retreat.



Prof. Ogugua Charles Aworh (on screen) who was a resource person at the 2020 TETFund BoT retreat making a presentation via the Zoom App.



Dr. Otiye Igbuzor who was a resource person at the 2020 TETFund BoT retreat making a presentation during the retreat



L-R: The Executive Secretary, NBTE, Dr. Masa'udu Kazaure; the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny Echono; the Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam; the Executive Secretary, NCCE, Mohammadu Bappa-Aliyu; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Trustee South East, Chief Uchenna Kyrian Ufearoh during the 2020 BoT retreat held in Abuja



From R-L: Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, Amb. Obed Wadzani, Executive Secretary, 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.



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



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (centre), Head ICPC Team, Mr. Adigun Olusegun (3rd Right) and his entourage during a courtesy visit to the Fund Recently.



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

Inauguration of The 2020 – 2024 In-house Committee on TETfund Strategic Planning



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (extreme right) making some remarks during the Inauguration of the 2020 – 2024 In-House Committee on TETFund Strategic Planning. To his right are the Chairman, Committee on TETFund Strategic Planning, Dr. Otiye Igbuzor and Dr. (Mrs) Ejiro Otiye Igbuzor, a member of the Committee.



L-R: Mal. Yahaya Yakubu; Dr. Hussaini Abdul; Dr. (Mrs) Ejiro Otiye Igbuzor; Chairman, Committee on TETFund Strategic Planning, Dr. Otiye Igbuzor; Director, Strategic Planning Department, Arc. Erivwo Inene and Prof. Nazifi Darma during the Inauguration of the 2020 – 2024 In-House Committee on TETFund Strategic Planning.

We are the focal point for intervention in Nigeria's Public Tertiary Educational Institutions

Physical Infrastructure/Programme Upgrade



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

TETFund... rehabilitating, restoring and consolidating Nigeria's Public Tertiary Educational Institutions

Bogoro awarded BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), the Minister, Finance, Budget and Planning Haj. Zainab Ahmed (2nd left) and other Award recipients during the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019 in Abuja.



The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Adesina (left), presenting the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award to the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, at the 2019 BusinessDay Newspapers Award ceremony held at Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center, Abuja.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), with his wife and son during the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019 held at Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center, Abuja.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left) with the former Governor of Bauchi State, Alh. Ahmadu Mu'azu during a dinner organized in honor of the Executive Secretary after he received the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left) exchanging pleasantries with the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Adesina.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro exchanging pleasantries with the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of ATBU Governing Council, Amb. Dr. N. N Akanbi at the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019 at Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center, Abuja.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro giving a vote of thanks during a dinner organized in his honor after he received the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019, with him are his wife and son.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left) having a chat with Mr. Tope Toogun during the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019 held at Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center, Abuja.



Dignitaries and family members proposing a toast to the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro during a dinner organized in his honor after he received the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left) chatting with some Directors of TETFund during the BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award 2019 held at Shehu Musa Yar'adua Center, Abuja.

Bogoro Emerges Leadership Newspaper Public Service Person of the Year 2019

...Dedicates Award To President Muhammadu Buhari



From R-L: Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Awardee), Justice Y.S. Bogoro (wife) Barr. Daadhn Suleiman Bogoro (son), TETFund Director of Finance & Investment, Alhaji Saidu Idris and TETFund Director of Physical Infrastructure, Buhari Mikailu

“For this reason, I want to dedicate this award to Mr. President and the Federal Government of Nigeria for finding me worthy of being reinstated,” he said.

Other awardees at the event included Governors Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State and Ben Ayade of Cross River State who emerged as Governors of the Year 2019; Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Prof. Ishaq Oloyede who won the Leadership Person of the Year 2019; as well as the former Group Managing Director (GMD) of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC),

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro has been named Leadership Newspaper Public Service Person of the Year 2019.

Prof. Bogoro was conferred with the award during the 2019 Leadership Conference and Award ceremony held at the Abuja International Conference Centre recently.

According to the award organizers, the Executive Secretary was honoured for his “unblemished service to the country, earning the President’s confidence and providing acceptable leadership for the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), a critical intervention agency of the government”.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Bogoro thanked Leadership Newspaper for finding him worthy of the honour and dedicated the award to President Muhammadu Buhari.

“It is very rare in Nigeria, if it has happened at all, at the level it did, when on January 21st 2019, after three years that I was disengaged by this government, Mr. President reviewed the circumstance on request and concluded that it was done in error; and I was unprecedentedly returned to the same seat that I was removed three years earlier.

“God has used Mr. President to perhaps, give me a medal that no Nigerian has ever received.

Maikanti Baru who was unveiled as CEO of the Year 2019 among others.

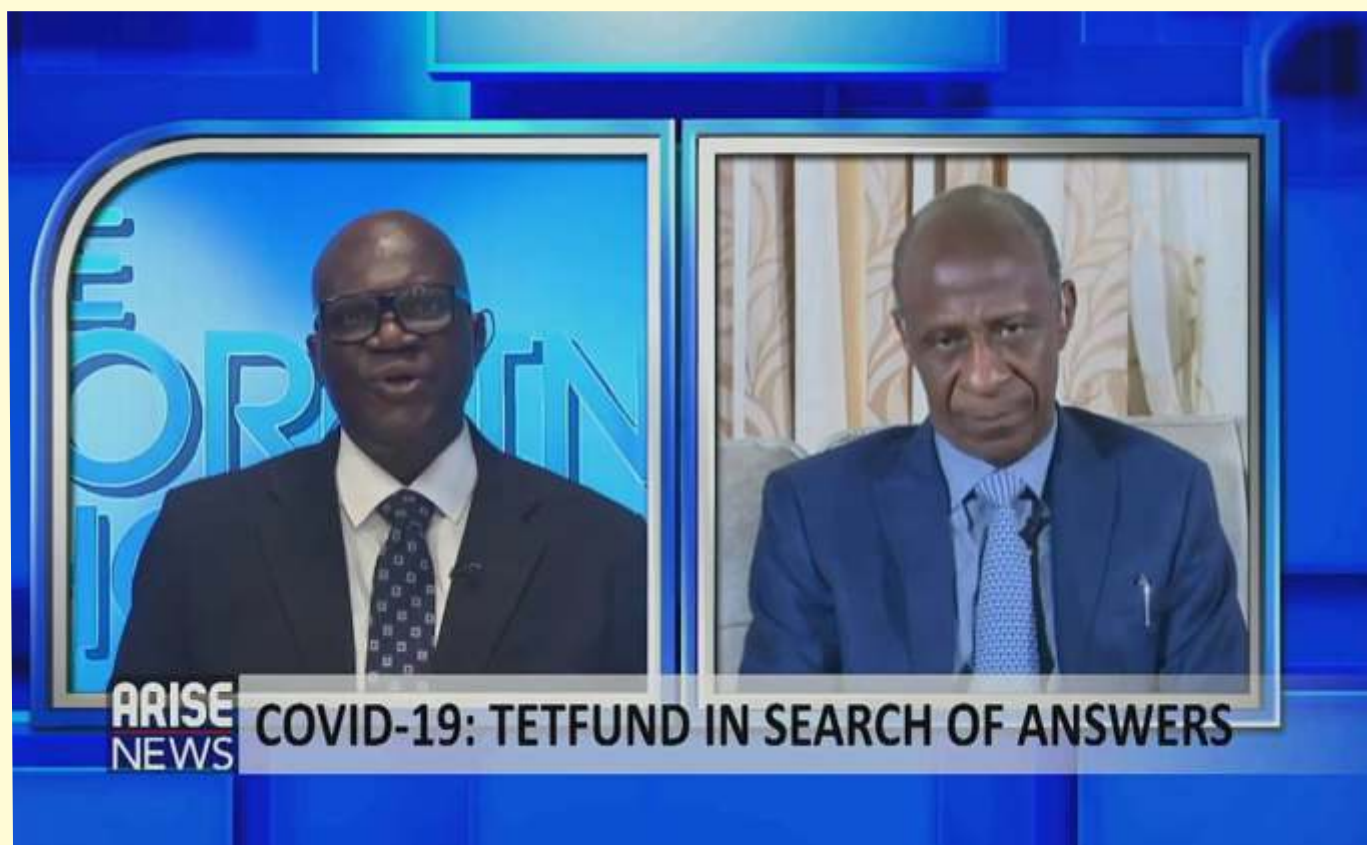
The event was chaired by former Vice President, Arc. Namadi Sambo and witnessed by dignitaries from all walks of life.

In a related development, BusinessDay also announced Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro as one of the winners of its Excellence in Public Service Awards alongside the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha, some serving ministers and Heads of Government Agencies.

BusinessDay noted that the award was bestowed on Prof. Bogoro as a result of the commitment he brought into the management and execution of the mandate of the Fund, which has translated into the recording of tremendous achievements under his leadership.

The Award organizer also pointed out that TETFund under Prof. Bogoro’s watch “is the first public outfit to set up an independent committee to conduct a self-audit on itself”.

It would be recalled that Prof. Bogoro in 2019 inaugurated the independent Technical Advisory Committee on Impact Assessment (TACIA) to carry out an evaluation of the Fund’s activities for 20 years (1999-2019).



In this interview on Arise News, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro spoke with Dr. Reuben Abati and Oji Okpe about the research community in Nigeria and the search for COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

We are now going to embark on that conversation on the role of research in finding answers to the ravaging problem of Covid-19 in Nigeria. How can the research community help out? What is happening to research grants being approved for Nigerian universities and other issues.

For all of that, we are now being joined by Professor Suleiman Bogoro, Executive Secretary Tertiary Education Trust Fund. Professor Bogoro welcome to the programme. Good morning. Thank you for joining us and good to see you again.

Thank you

Good to see you again after such a long time. Welcome to the morning show. Well, before we begin to talk about Research, TETFund and Covid-19; first of all, I would like you to tell us a few things about the Tertiary Education Trust Fund. It is supposed to be an intervention fund to support the university system and in spite of that, we have university teachers, polytechnics, colleges of education always going on strike, always protesting that government is not providing

enough support and in 2017, the Buhari government provided enormous support. In 2018 President Buhari, again approved about N161billion for disbursement to universities to support research and to support scholarship to fill the gap, whatever funding gap exists.

Now where does the problem lie? Is it that these universities, colleges of education and polytechnics are not following the guidelines for accessing TETFund? Or is it as many people argue, that TETFund is very partial and that TETFund is politicized. Let's clear the air on this before we begin to talk about how TETFund can support the universities to do research in relation to Covid-19.

Well, I could go on and respond to, I know you put up quite a number of questions about the same time. Let me proceed to respond to the very first part and that is, what I will consider the Mandate of TETFund in context of the TETFund Act of 2011.

For those who may not know, let me take us a little years back to the emergence of ETF that eventually transformed to TETFund in 2011. ETF

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Let me say this and for me at TETFund, I go around this country, I commission projects and I can name across Nigeria from the extreme North to the extreme South, extreme East to the extreme West, institutions that have benefited so much so, that it is said that if you go to these public tertiary institutions, the university, polytechnic and college of education, some of them could as well be renamed TETFund Institutions.

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emerged consequent to negotiation between Academics Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in the early 90s, precisely between 1990 and '92 and with an agreement signed in 1992 between ASUU and the Federal Government under Military President Ibrahim Babangida; eventually coming into Law in 1993 as 'Education Tax Fund' and subsequently 'Education Trust Fund' by 1998.

The application of the funds started around 1999-2000 when Mrs. Olakunri was made the chairman of the Board of Trustees and very sadly as it were, the funds were applied across the board. In other words, it is recalled that the original concept was for universities, polytechnics and colleges of education owned by Federal or State Governments to benefit but somehow along the line, even the basic sub-sector benefited as well as in fact many institutions outside the education sector, including as it were, nursing schools, colleges of agriculture as well as the Law School and that made the impact very minimal and that is why it was reviewed and the focus was rejigged.

In 2011, at that time TETFund led by the current INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu refocused and the refocus was for the tertiary sub-sector exclusively.

During the negotiation with Government, although it was ASUU that negotiated, they felt 'Let us be fair' to the other tertiary sub-sector institutions; that is the polytechnics and college of education and it was agreed and reflected in the laws that emerged subsequently that the universities should take 50% of the funds and the remaining 50% be equally split between public polytechnics and colleges of education.

But like I said, because many entities outside the education sector benefited, the impact was

considered inadequate and that is why from 2011, when the name and the focus was changed and mandate now very clear, only federal and state universities, polytechnic and colleges of education were to benefit.

It is very obvious that there was wisdom in that decision. That is why the impact of TETFund as it was originally conceived from that time has become more manifest; because at the time when ETF actually was negotiated and it came into being in 1993, I still recall that ASUU had said Nigerian universities had become 'Glorified Secondary Schools', essentially because of inadequate physical infrastructure and if they existed, they were largely decrepit and in very sorry state. But, thankfully from that time when ETF came into being and particularly from 2011 to this year now, we're talking of nine years, there has been manifest impact, I must say; whatever criteria somebody wants to use.

Yes, Dr. Abati said, TETFund might have been politicized but let me say this - it depends on somebody's interpretation, after all TETFund is a product of political creation. So, it depends on what somebody means because the law of TETFund is very clear and it indicates very clearly as it were, the application of the funds through the various intervention lines we have, about 15 intervention lines, which I hope I find time to speak about later.

There has to be equity essentially between the six geo-political zones and so, there is political sensitivity. Let me say this and for me at TETFund, I go around this country, I commission projects and I can name across Nigeria from the extreme North to the extreme South, extreme East to the extreme West, institutions that have benefited so much so, that it is said that if you go to these public tertiary

institutions, the university, polytechnic and college of education, some of them could as well be renamed TETFund Institutions.

I think in that respect, sitting from my office, I feel good that there is wisdom in the emergence of an Intervention Agency that today handles over 90% perhaps of the physical infrastructure requirements, but even more importantly what we call the content component leading us to the issue, the question that I guess we will spend most of the time later speaking about and that is those key content component of all of them. Research is virtually number one and Conference Attendance, of course Manuscript Development, Transforming PhD thesis into Textbooks, Journal Support for both professional journals initially and as well as Institution Based Journals. We hope and so increasingly, there has been added and sustained presence of TETFund and there is no doubt about that.

Let me say this, today in Africa, more than six countries have come to ask from TETFund what is the secret and even in Nigeria, we are proud to say this that we have attempted to justify that Nigerians generally appreciate what we have been doing. That is not to say we may be perfect, we take criticism and that is why recently we undertook and about to receive a report on Impact Assessment of the Fund. We decided to self-assess ourselves, which is pretty rare in the Public Service and we are hoping the report will come and we picked non-TETFund staff, independent consultants and experts to undertake that impact assessment because we have nothing to hide and we submit ourselves to suggestions and criticisms where we need to improve.

Professor Bogoro, Thank you. You have explained yourself with regards to TETFund and the role you have played especially over the past nine years in terms of developments. Now, I would like us to take all of that context and apply it to today's pandemic. There's a global race for a vaccine, Research and Development is now at an all-time high and one would like to know and really find out the capability or possibility of our tertiary institutions here in Nigeria. Particularly, our universities coming out or being able to produce, let's say a vaccine or some sort of solution to covid-19.

Thank you very much for that question, I knew we were coming to that. For vaccine production, it is the ultimate as far as I'm concerned in the science community. Speaking about my area of discipline. I'm a biological scientist and I should appreciate better the threat of infectious diseases, which is what Covid-19 is. But as we know in Nigeria, we have other infectious disease threats; of course, we have the Lassa. It has been said that in this country, so far more people have died from Lassa fever this year than COVID-19. Of course, the rate at which COVID-19 is going, it is very likely that the number will continue to rise but we hope not with the concerted effort by the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, the experts and Nigerians.

Yes, production of vaccine, let me say this that it is a more demanding aspect of the intervention to contain the pandemic that the vaccine is the very thing I call the ultimate. There are a number of palliative initiatives I so call them, that is production of PPE, production of ventilators and so on and so forth.

The scientists are not resting. Let me say this that so far we have tried to convey our position in

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For us in TETFund, although, we are dealing with public universities, we have private universities and there is no doubt about it, that I am aware for instance that the Redeemers University has gone far in its exploits towards 'Gene Sequencing' in order to arrive at conclusive vaccine that addresses a number of infectious disease, including COVID-19

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Let me say this, globally, the global rating and ranking of universities are much less because of ordinary physical infrastructure. It has significantly to do with the quality of research and of course Faculty. It is the quality of Faculty that reflects the quality of research and of course faculty members cannot do research if there are no equipment. That is why from TETFund we try to increase the amount for research especially for Applied Research; that is the National Research Fund to a grant level of up to N50 million.

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respect of the fact that we have experts in Nigeria, in the research community. Let me also add that when we say research community, it has always been said that traditionally universities are the leaders of research but the universities do not operate in isolation. They need for instance, research institutes in the various disciplines, they need centres of excellence that exist in this country.

For us in TETFund, although, we are dealing with public universities, we have private universities and there is no doubt about it, that I am aware for instance that the Redeemers University has gone far in its exploits towards 'Gene Sequencing' in order to arrive at conclusive vaccine that addresses a number of infectious disease, including COVID-19 and many of our public universities both federal and state universities.

I have privileged information because we are communicating with the National Universities Commission and other entities that are associated with research in our tertiary institutions. Let me say that our researchers are eagerly waiting to be engaged and for us working closely with the National Universities Commission, we know of the efforts that are ongoing including prototype production of ventilators by a number of universities. We know that however, for vaccine, it takes a little longer, longer protocol of certification. It is not just the laboratory production of a vaccine but the clinical testing and trials take quite some months and that is why listening to Dr. Fauci in the United States and many other experts including many in this country, Human Virology Institute etc., it is obvious that we have to be a little bit patient, perhaps quite some months from now. We are in April, some of the

experts have said it may not be earlier than August perhaps before a certified vaccine could be applied. I am quoting the experts because that is not my area of expertise. Let's hope that eventually happens. Take it from me, we are in liaison, we have received intentions and initiatives already on some of these things including vaccine production.

One of the testing sites in Nigeria is National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, and let's note many of the infectious diseases are zoonotic and to be zoonotic, that means that some of them are transmissible between humans and animals and so the scientists; both the human medical doctor as well as veterinarians and the molecular scientists are working in concert. We are in touch with the NCDC and I am hoping that some initiatives will be done and you will get to hear about it very soon.

If I may interrupt you, I mean, it's good to hear that you are working together with the NUC and that you are in touch with some of the organizations making efforts to get a vaccine and be part of the research for a solution to Covid-19. However, to what extent is TETFund itself ready to support that research. Do you have the resources or do you need help maybe from the private sector or from the Central Bank or directly from the Federal Government to be able to intervene and support the research process in Nigeria?

Thank you very much Dr. Abati. I can proceed to say very clearly that yes, today in the Research Community, I am almost sure that the TETFund research grant managed under the National Research Fund (NRF) for short and currently



chaired by Professor Bamiro, is the largest single visible research grant in the Nigerian tertiary education system and it is recalled that only last year, the Board of Trustees of TETFund on the initiative and advise of management, recommended through the honorable Minister of Education Mallam Adamu Adamu to Mr. President, an increase from the original seed money of N3billion to N5billion and Mr. President approved it.

We are even hoping that in the 2020 budget, that could still be scaled up. In other words it reflects what I personally did as soon as I returned to TETFund when Mr. President graciously reinstated me January last year to my office as it were in TETFund as the Executive Secretary. I made it very clear in consultation with stakeholders associated with our mandate that we must proceed to emphasize the correct thing.

Let me say this, globally, the global rating and ranking of universities are much less because of ordinary physical infrastructure. It has significantly to do with the quality of research and of course Faculty. It is the quality of Faculty that reflects the quality of research and of course faculty members cannot do research if there are

no equipment. So yes, addressing the issue you raised, to what extent is the support that TETFund is expecting from government and beyond. Today, there is no doubt about it, the message is very clear, we are all in lockdown across the world and more funding is actually required and that is why from TETFund we try to increase the amount for research especially for Applied Research; that is the National Research Fund to a grant level of up to N50 million.

I want to say that among the 128 research grants that were signed in January this year, there are one or two that worked on infectious diseases as it were and we are hoping that it can be scaled up.

Beyond that as I talk to you, we have had communication from many Vice-Chancellors, Colleges of Medicine Teaching Hospitals, Virology experts. You have listened to a number of the experts, professors and deep researchers as you are in this country communicating with various media. It is very clear and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 is very focused in terms of ensuring that there is increased testing and if there is increased testing, it is those experts that are involved; that is increase the site for testing.

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At the moment, we are holding about the largest grant for tertiary institutions in this country and we went beyond that recognizing the fact that private universities, private research institute as well as the Industry are all involved in research. We invited the Industry, private research institutes as well as private universities to partner with public universities as it were officially in the research grants and a number of the grants that were approved includes the partnership of those private entities

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Profoundly we know that with the initiatives in this research centres and with the support of the Federal Government as it were, we are expecting that there will be a window of course, to support the research that we have been involved in. But beyond that, let me also add that for TETFund, in the 2020 Budget there is a proposal for supporting Colleges of Medicine in terms of simulation equipment in medicine; that is one angle. Of the 12 TETFund Centers of Excellence that are likely to emerge soon, about three quarters are in the science disciplines and a number of them are in Medicine and Pharmaceutical Research and so we are very conscious and we are determined to work with NCDC and the Federal Ministry of Health.

In fact, we wrote a letter to the Honorable Minister and if not for COVID-19, we were supposed to have had a meeting with the Honorable Minister of Health to share perspectives about partnership in the area of research.

At the moment, we are holding about the largest grant for tertiary institutions in this country and we went beyond that recognizing the fact that private universities, private research institute as well as the Industry are all involved in research. We invited the Industry, private research institutes as well as private universities to partner with public universities as it were officially in the research grants and a number of the grants that were approved includes the partnership of those private entities, or others that may ordinary be called non-state actors by the World Bank and other research grants across the world.

Thank you Professor Bogoro. I would like to come in here, You said that the quality of our faculties affects the quality of research and now, we are speaking of research grants coming in. Now if we look at the global race once again for a vaccine and the solution, how much of a contribution is Nigeria in a position to actually make to this global race; how much Research can we put towards this?

Thank you very much. I would respond from this perspective. Take it or leave it, it is a fact that

Nigerians are in some of the best Centres of Excellence across the world including the NASAs of this world, including those universities, as we call them the Ivy League. Nigerians are operating there.

It is our desire, especially now with the closing of borders, virtually every other nation is closing its borders, well as we close our borders definitely I have been following the Presidential Task Force and I also watched the CBN Governor reeling out stimulus package and there is a component to support research and understandably as it were, so since we have experts across the world some of them, there were many reasons in the past, we talked about brain drain and that reflected in a number of some of our best leaving the country going not only in the field of medicine but other areas. But we are confident that as the environment for research gets improved within the country, those experts will return. I mean, for instance, the Director General of NCDC returned from Diaspora, I understand, I have not come close to him, but you will agree with me that this man is doing a great job for Mr. President to mention him in his National address, for the role he is playing and of course, as well as the entire PTF as it were in the fight against COVID-19 is to recognize that people are distinguishing themselves.

I can assure you that I am privileged also to know only recently we did something from TETFund, we undertook some capacity building for research grant access skills development in Dubai, in Dayton Ohio and in Cambridge. It was to give us opportunity for co-operation and peer review and many of the professors, some of the best that we have in this country were very happy that we did that because there is no country in the world that operates in isolation if you look at Sustainable Goals, there is emphasis on cooperation.

Well Prof, on that note about co-operation, we need to bring this to an end and we have been having a very exciting conversation with you. We would have wished that this went on for maybe another hour, but thank you very much, Prof.
Thank you.



Tertiary Education Trust Fund

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Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria. Tel. 08141618921
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TETFUND NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND (NRF) 2020 GRANTS CYCLE: CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Following the successful completion of the processing of the research proposals submitted to NRF under the 2019 Grants Cycle, culminating in the total award of N3.9 billion to support 128 research projects, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) wishes to inform the Nigerian research community, in particular, and the public in general, that President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the sum of N7.5 billion for the current 2020 NRF Grants Cycle. The process of accessing the 2020 NRF grants involves the response to this Call-for-Concept-Notes by the Principal Investigators of the proposed research projects, to be followed later by the submission of full proposals by only those whose concept notes have been evaluated and the research projects are considered fundable.

THEMATIC AREAS FOR THE 2020 NRF GRANT APPLICATION

The twenty eight prioritized thematic areas of research are, as presented below, in three categories: Humanities and Social Sciences; Science, Technology and Innovation; and Cross-Cutting.

Category 1

Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation

Thematic Area 1	Agriculture and Food Security
Thematic Area 2	Health and Social Welfare
Thematic Area 3	Transport
Thematic Area 4	Power and Energy
Thematic Area 5	IT, Computing & Telecommunications
Thematic Area 6	Space Science and Technology
Thematic Area 7	Geosciences
Thematic Area 8	Science and Engineering
Thematic Area 9	Water & Sanitation
Thematic Area 10	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Thematic Area 11	Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Terrestrial Ecosystems

Category 2

Humanities and Social Sciences

Thematic Area 12	National Integration, Conflict, Defence and Security
Thematic Area 13	Education and Human Capital
Thematic Area 14	Economic Development and Globalization
Thematic Area 15	History, Culture and Identities

Thematic Area 16	Languages, Literatures and Media
Thematic Area 17	Social Development and Welfare
Thematic Area 18	Population and Migration
Thematic Area 19	Governance, Politics, law and Ethics
Thematic Area 20	Tourism, Sports and Recreation
Thematic Area 21	Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion
Thematic Area 22	Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology and Business Interface

Category 3

Cross-Cutting

Thematic Area 23	Entrepreneurship & Wealth Creation
Thematic Area 24	Environment, Housing & Urban and Regional Development
Thematic Area 25	Resource Governance
Thematic Area 26	Science, Technology and Innovation System Management
Thematic Area 27	Blue Economy
Thematic Area 28	Clean and Affordable Energy

ELIGIBILITY

Lecturers in any of our public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in Nigeria are eligible. Multi-Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary research projects, comprising researchers from various disciplines, are most highly encouraged. The Principal Investigator (PI), who must preferably be of professorial cadre in a university, chief lecturer in a polytechnic or college of education, will lead the research team and be personally responsible and held accountable for the conduct of the research. An added requirement is that the PI must be institution based, with the PI's institution regarded as the Coordinating Institution. However, in line with the approval of Board of Trustees (BOT) of TETFund, additional members of the research team can be drawn from researchers in private tertiary institutions, research institutes, Centres of Excellence and the industry. This is consistent with the global best practice of involving non-governmental organizations and other non-state actors in research projects that are to address national needs.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The process of application is entirely on an online platform. The Principal Investigator is expected to visit nrf.tetfund.gov.ng upon the opening of the Portal, where he or she will be closely guided on the preparation and final submission of the concept note.

All the submitted Concept Notes will be evaluated by the National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC). The PIs of the successful Concept Notes will be communicated to proceed to the preparation of the Full Proposals which will also be processed online. The PI and, at least a member of the Research Team of an adjudged fundable proposal, shall be invited to defend their proposal before the NRFS&MC. Thereafter, the successful proposals for grant awards will be presented to the Board of Trustees of TETFund for approval.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT NOTES

The Portal will be open for the submission of the Concept Notes from Monday 22nd June to Tuesday 21st July.

For any enquiry, please contact the TETFund NRF Secretariat using the following e-mail addresses:

salihugb@tetfund.gov.ng, odoju@tetfund.gov.ng, bashirgaladanci@yahoo.com, oabamiro@yahoo.com

Signed

Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro (FNIA, FNSAP, FASAN, D.Sc. Hon, FAS)
(Executive Secretary, TETFund, Abuja)

The Role of Research in Resolving the COVID-19 Pandemic and TETFund's Efforts in that Regard

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro appeared on Channels Television COVID-19 Update programme. In this conversation with Millicent Nwoka, he spoke about the role of research in resolving the COVID-19 pandemic and TETFund's efforts in that regard.

Good afternoon and welcome to the COVID-19 update on Channels Television. I am Millicent Nwoka. The Executive Secretary of TETFund joins us on the role of research in resolving the pandemic.

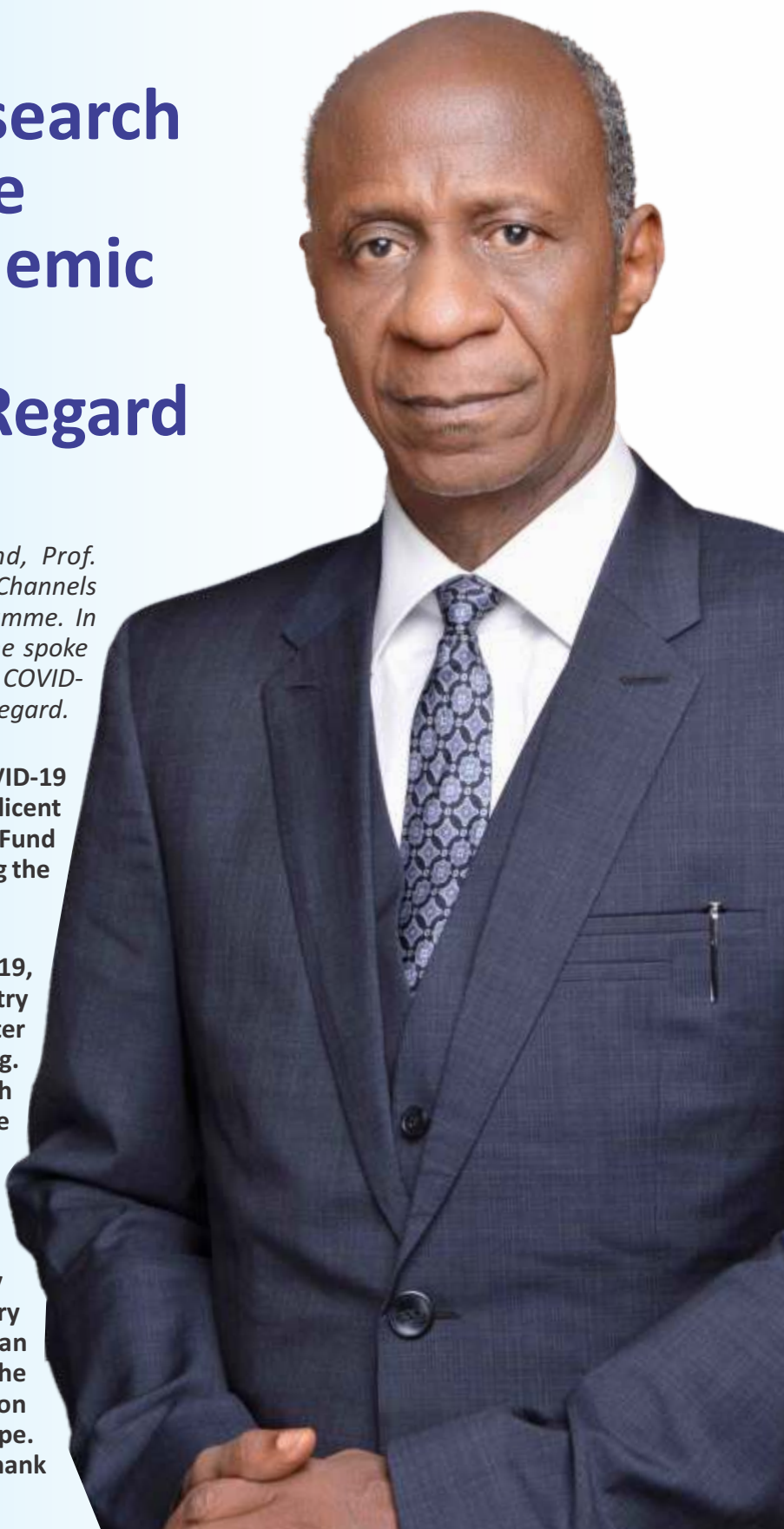
Now, since the outbreak of the COVID-19, schools have been shut across the country and for the first time, the Education Minister joined the Presidential Task Force briefing. He talked about the ongoing efforts with students and lock down areas, but is there research ongoing into a solution to all of the problems as a result of COVID-19?

Well, now the representative of an education intervention agency responsible for revamping public tertiary institutions in Nigeria joins us. He's an accomplished scholar, researcher and the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund). He joins us via Skype. Welcome Professor Suleiman Bogoro; thank you for joining us.

Tell us, is there any efforts from Nigeria's tertiary institutions, particularly the universities and the search for solutions to this pandemic?

Thank you very much. This is one of the moments we thought we had anticipated and that is when the research community, the academic community,

operating in the larger research community which involves the private sector may be called upon to play its role - and when Mr. President addressed the country some few weeks ago, the case was very clear; and if you watched across the world on the television screens, discussions and each moment the experts are invited.



And as we know, traditionally and historically, universities are the leaders of research and getting an antidote of COVID-19 is through research basically; either for the purpose of prophylactics or any forms of palliative, but ultimately securing the vaccine that we hope may happen soon. And we are aware, we have listened to some of the best of experts across the world and the world is eagerly waiting for a pronouncement on a certified vaccine by the World Health Organization.



How long do you think it will take the research community to come up with a rewarding solution to this pandemic?

Thank you for that question. I can assure you that the research community has not been resting its oars. As I speak to you, a number of research endeavours in both public and private universities as well as research institutes, addressing infectious diseases overall and COVID-19 in particular have been on and I am aware that a number of deep inquest, molecular research has been going on towards gene sequencing in order to proceed and get a vaccine and it is possible.

We have some of the best of experts in this area, as it were in this country. Perhaps we just need appropriate fortification of research facilities but I am very sure that the experts are actually there in our universities. As I talk a number of PPEs as well as some of the medical palliatives; even prototype ventilators are being produced in a number of universities. It would take the protocol of certification and as we talk, a number of universities, researchers have initiated the process of working towards securing a vaccine.

Prof., I want to quickly ask you because funding is also something that is key for the research community and critics have argued that some of the research funds are diverted. What do you think is the solution to this?

Well, first yes, let me say that we are hoping that within the same period of expectations for a vaccine, Nigerian scientists can get something done to help, granted the advantage that we have in Africa, in terms of immunity level.

But more profoundly on what we have been doing in TETFund. Let me say this - the interventions that we're doing for research, we are very happy with the outcomes. Unfortunately, we have had cases of infractions in some of our interventions, but let me say that we do not have a major listed case as it were, of infractions in terms of the research grants. We have had infractions in other areas of intervention.

So I am very confident that whereas we have had challenges, in some cases, funds being diverted, but not in respect of research to the best of my knowledge and documentation that we have in TETFund. I am confident, if research grants are received, like the one that we are administering - the National Research Fund (NRF) at TETFund. Our guidelines are so strict that it is pretty difficult for anybody to carelessly and cheaply divert funds meant for research.

We appreciate your time Professor Suleiman Bogoro, Executive Secretary of TETFund. Thank you for joining us on the programme.

Thank you.

“ Let me say this - the interventions that we're doing for research, we are very happy with the outcomes. We have had cases of infractions in some of our interventions, but let me say that we do not have a major listed case as it were, of infractions in terms of the research grants. Our guidelines are so strict that it is pretty difficult for anybody to carelessly and cheaply divert funds meant for research ”



TRANSITION



*To the Family of
Prof. Israel Folorunso Adu*

THE AUDACITY OF DEATH: A TRIBUTE TO PROF. ISRAEL FOLORUNSO ADU, A GREAT MEMBER OF THE TETFUND NRFS&MC

*in the realm where death is a futility. My
condolences to all and his beloved family."*

This short and heartfelt tribute to our late colleague, Prof Israel Folorunso Adu, is being written on behalf of the 49 members of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC). Prof Adu was not only a member of this very important national committee with responsibility for the processing of research grants for projects addressing our national challenges, he was the Chairman of the Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) sub-Committee. This was a position he held to guide the group in assessing close to 2,500 proposals in 2019, culminating in the award of 78 research grants of N2.5 billion out of a total of N3.9 billion grant awarded to 128 research projects. In respect of his style of leadership, a member of the sub-committee noted – *"What a sad news! The SETI Sub-Committee will surely miss his humble leadership style; while another member noted - A great gentleman, humble scholar and smooth administrator. Yet another noted: We have lost a very jovial, easy-going but firm (when it comes to making sure assignments are completed on time) chairman.*

All the members of the Committee as well as TETFund expressed their shock in varying degrees. Nobody could have probably been more shocked than Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, the Executive Secretary of TETFund who had the privilege of discussing extensively with Prof Adu matters connected with the development of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) about 24 hours before his departure to the other side of the great divide. That was Prof Adu for you, still concerned with the development of FUNAAB several years after completing his tenure as the vice-chancellor.

In addressing the situation, Prof Francis Egbokhare, a member and Chairman of the Humanities and Social Sciences sub-Committee of NRFS&MC, had this to say, and I quote:

"Death is a trickster! It is a sad news to say the least. Shocking as it is a frightening reminder of the inevitable end of all mortals. His good works and excellent memories console one. May he rest well

You may be wondering why I have used the above title for the tribute to Prof Foluso Adu on behalf of NRFS&MC. It emanated from the tribute to the late Prof. Segun Odunuga by Prof. Bankole Okuwa with the title – audacity of death. Okuwa spoke my mind when he noted, and I quote:

"Once again the intrepidly cold and bold, daring, reckless, arrogant enemy of humanity has struck again. On this occasion, its wicked hands did us an irreparable damage, which is permanent. It has snatched away our humble but brilliant, amiable, creative, hard-working professor from us in a rude and shocking manner...We are all aware of death's recklessness, yet we raise our heads with pride, as the faithful children of God Almighty, who believe in His holiness, the resurrection of Jesus and His superior power over all mundane activities and interests of this wicked world." End of quote.

To Mrs Joko Adu, as you go through the five stages of grief; denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance, allow the memories of the good times you have spent together bring a smile to your face instead of a painful grimace. Take heart as we all know that you have lost both a friend and a husband. Permit us to console you with the following admonition by William James –

"Be willing to have it so, acceptance of what has happened is the first step to overcoming the consequences of any misfortune".

May God be with you and the family as Prof Israel Folorunso Adu, our friend and colleague, has left us the members of NRFS&MC with a poser from Joseph Roux:

"We call that person who has lost his father, an orphan; and a widower that man who has lost his wife. But that man who has known the immense unhappiness of losing a friend, by what name do we call him? Here every language is silent and holds its peace in impotence."

Members of the NRFS&MC bid you farewell our dear brother, friend and colleague. Rest in the bosom of your creator.

Prof. Olufemi Bamiro

For Members of the TETFund NRFS & MC



Tertiary Education Trust Fund

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www.tetfund.gov.ng

OUR RESPONSE IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. On behalf of the Board of Trustees (BOT), Management and staff of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), we wish to first of all appreciate the commendable steps taken by the President, Muhammadu Buhari, *GCFR*, in addressing the nation on the COVID-19 pandemic threat to lives and wellbeing of Nigerians, announcement of the high-level Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19, the immediate pronouncement of several relief, mobilization, response measures and stimulus packages, for which citizens, WHO and other Development agencies have commended the government.
2. Additionally, we wish to commend the PTF chaired by the SGF, The Minister of Health, The DG of NCDC, The Minister of Finance and National Planning, The CBN Governor, Minister of Information, Minister of Aviation, the Technical Coordinator of the PTF, the experts in the Human Virology Institute and indeed many Medical experts, especially in virology, zoonosis and infectious diseases generally for their specific and coordinated efforts to save our country from what the UN has described as the greatest Test against humanity since the Second World War.
3. At a time virtually all nations of the world have closed their borders to most businesses, transactions, including Executive Orders stopping the export of live-saving Medical equipment and commodities, we now appreciate better the wisdom of Mr President when he approved that we scale up the funding of the TETFund National Research Fund (NRF) basket by his unprecedented approval of five billion Naira (N5b) for the 2019 NRF Call for Proposals, initially through Concept Notes last year. At the end of evaluation of the grant applications last year, 124 Research Grants were recommended and approved, with the tacit endorsement of the Hon Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu.
4. Not only were most of the grants in the disciplines of Basic and Applied sciences, a significant number were in the field of medicine. As is the global practice, private institutions and the private sector were invited as research partners in many of the grant applications, thereby showing the way forward in a new paradigm shift of the indispensable partnership between the Academic Community and the Industry/Private sector. This has bolstered the *Triple Helixdrive* initiative of the National Universities Commission (NUC) which presently involves TETFund, NBTE, NCCE, the National Economic Summit Group (NESG), Office of the Presidential Advisory Council, the National Assembly, the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN), the Chartered Institute of Bankers, etc.
5. We are presently in constructive liaison with key parties and stakeholder entities in the fight against COVID-19, hoping we shall identify specific entry points from where RESEARCH by hugely talented medical experts in our Universities, Colleges of Medicine, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes, Centres of Excellence, etc can be initiated and funded towards short term medical palliatives, but more importantly, towards breakthrough in WHO-certified VACCINE against COVID-19, other Infectious Diseases and indeed all other diseases that lead to more deaths. This will go a long way to consolidate on the new R & D drive in our tertiary institutions which has led to the emergence of the production of Sanitizers, prototype Ventilators and PPE in our Universities across the country. Furthermore, we have recommended the provision of modern Medical simulation equipment in 6 Colleges of Medicine, all aimed at reversing avoidable Medical Tourism by Nigerians, leading to capital flight.

(Signed)

Prof. S. E. Bogoro (FNIAS, FNSAP, FASAN, D. Sc. Hon, FAS)
(Executive Secretary, TETFund, Abuja)

APRIL

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU



MAGAJI Aisha
April 5.



ABDULLAHI Haliru Bunza
April 6



AHMED Fahd
April 6



ABRAHAM Mabel Ojoma
April 9



ADEWA Sunday Peter
April 10



IDOWU Esther Fummi
April 13



DIODOMISE Mary Williams
April 14



GYANG Davou
April 14.



SHEHU Fatima Ismail
April 14



NGGADA Hyelkuzuku H.
April 14.



BUTSWAT Hajara
April.14



GARBA Ramatu Aliyu
April 15

APRIL



MOHAMMAD Salisu Ishaq
April 19



SABO Garba
April 20



UMOH Morrison Ndifreke
April 21



AMADI George Chibeoso
April 22.



ALANEME Erasmus Chiemezie
April 22



ORUWARI Dokubo Walter
April 22



ODOH Caroline Ngozika
April 23



FAJEMI Atnadu Onyinye
April 25



FAJONYOMI O. Mary
April 26



IBEKWE Kate Unyime
April 27.



MUHAMMAD Habib Shuaibu
April 27.

MAY

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU



ONU-CHINEDU Candid Chinonye
May 1



AUTA Isaac Audu
May 1



ABDULLAHI Idris Umar
May 2



FASUYI Bosede Florence
May 2



SALISU Idris
May 4



BOLOU Ogori Seiyela
May 5



KASSEY Kemka Owabie
May 6



CHINEGWU Emmanuel Onyeka
May 6



MUSTAPHA Aliyu Waziri
May 7



HALLIRU Ibrahim Musa
May 7



FASANYA Omolola Anthonia
May 11



UMAR Mohammed
May 13



ONWUEGBUCHULEM Ijeoma C.
May 15



BABANGIDA Umar Farouq
May 16



AMINU Ashiya Dumburi
May 20



ALADE Adegoke Oluwafemi
May 16



OKENWA Chioma Olivia
May 19



SALAU Oladipo Shittu
May 20



ADUKU Hannatu Amos
May 21



SADIQ Mohammed Abubakar
May 22



ALIMI Shuaib Olumide
May 24



MAGAJI Joseph Bukki
May 25



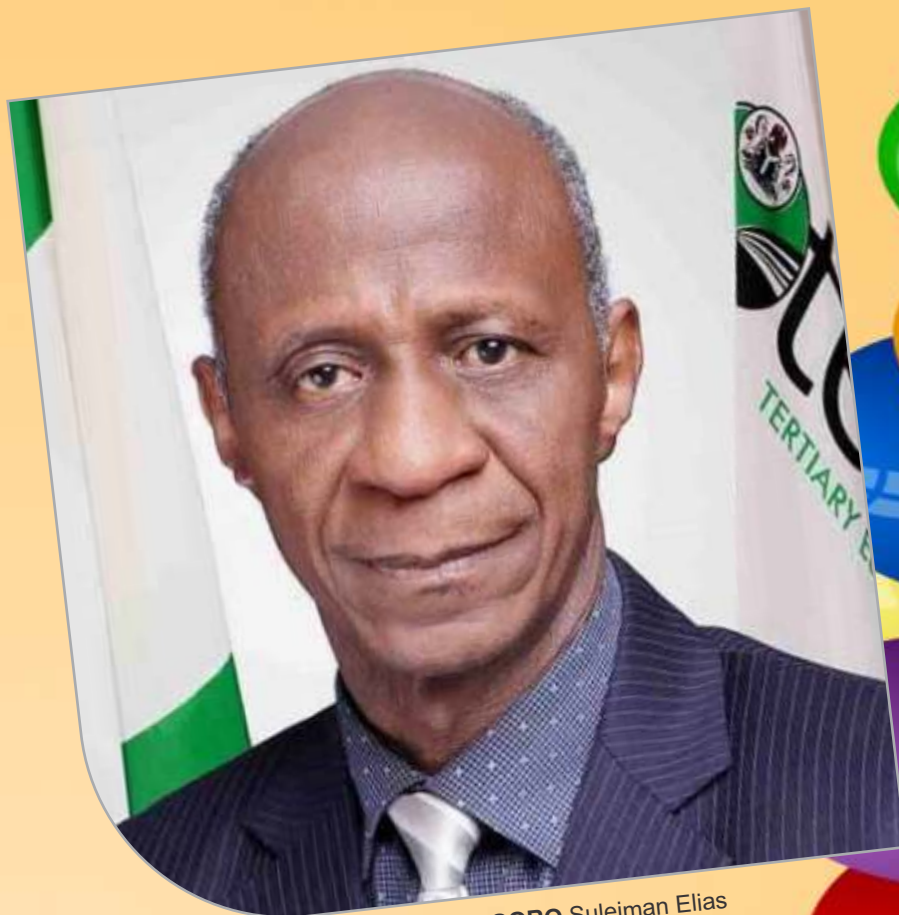
IMASUEN Michelle O.
May 28



OLOTU Gloria Eseroghene
May 30

JUNE

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU



Prof BOGORO Suleiman Elias
June 6



OKOLO Edwin Nwoye
June 5



MAGAJI Suleiman Ibrahim
June 8



IROHA-KALU Nnena
June 8



SALISU Zaharradeen Maska
June 9



YAKUBU Yusuf Animoku
June 11



AMINU-SULEIMAN Bilkisu
June 12

JUNE



ONIYANGI Banji Abdulmumini
June 14



ACHINE Ferdinand Ebah
June 14



ADENIRAN Babatope Iyiade
June 14



TEERAH Lekpa E.
June 14



ABDULAZIZ Yakubu
June 15



MU'AZU Sa'eeda
June 15



MUHAMMED Fatima Alhaji
June 15



ASUQUO Emmanuel
June 16



AUMADE Enoch
June 17

JUNE



SHEHU Abdulrahman
June 17



MAIKUDI Yusuf Musa
June 19



BELLO Khalifa A.
June 20



SANI Farida Abbas
June 22



MAYI Usman Alfa
June 26



SANI Nura Matori
June 27



ASEIMO Ebimobowei
June 30



OHUE Linda Omoaluse
June 30





Tertiary Education Trust Fund

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TETFund's RESPONSE: 2013 -2017 TETFUND SPONSORED STRANDED SCHOLARS

Our attention has been drawn to the open letter captioned "Open Appeal to Tertiary Education Trust Fund" by one Dr. Muhammed Sanusi Ibrahim of Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi, purportedly writing on behalf of "2013 -2017 TETFund sponsored stranded scholars" and published in the Daily Trust Newspaper of April 14, 2020.

The article, and some other misrepresentations are mostly mischievous and poorly aimed at discrediting an organisation lately re-energized and refocused for better performance and relevance by its Executive Secretary, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro.

We note that TETFund has been subjected to different descriptions and colorations, regardless of how Prof. Bogoro has over an unfortunately interrupted period of headship, refused the organisation from a mere funding organisation to a purposeful one, determined to implement its mission and vision. This is aside his painstaking effort of enhancing research and innovation for the good of the nation's tertiary educational system, and the nation at large.

The said letter, amongst other misinformation, referred to a certain cohort of 2013 and 2017 foreign scholars of TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff (TSAS) Intervention program for public tertiary institutions in Nigeria, alleging hardships because of improper administration of funding, and the vagaries of exchange rates. They also alluded to the manipulation of a list of scholars by their beneficiary institutions, when the Fund tried to remedy the alleged anomalies asking that the Fund should rather deal directly with scholars, rather than their beneficiary institutions which is inconsistent with the Funds guidelines for TETFund's Scholarship for Training of Academic Staff (TSAS).

Ordinarily, the Fund would not have responded as there are established protocols that address challenges that may arise in the course of implementation of the TSAS intervention, and indeed any of our intervention lines.

In choosing to respond publicly, the Fund hopes to bring to the fore the commitment, efforts and challenges it faces in addressing this issue.

The TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff (TSAS) was established for the training of academic staff of public tertiary institutions for post-graduate programmes in local and foreign institutions.

TETFund does not nominate scholars for this program but rather the beneficiary institutions do. The Fund only interfaces with the beneficiary institutions through vetting of their submissions and thereafter conveying approvals to scholars through their beneficiary institutions. Relevant finances for the entire duration of the study are thereafter released in full to their institutions, well before the commencement of study.

The beneficiary institutions by the Fund's guidelines are to disburse the funds in installments to the scholars as they progress in their studies. If the period of study is over 12 months, disbursements are made after the initial one to scholars depending on a favorable progress report from their training institutions. For ease of remittance of funds for foreign-based scholars, beneficiary institutions are expected to have domiciliary account where such disbursed funds are kept to avoid issues relating to Naira devaluation and forex fluctuation.

Over the years, most benefitting institutions have consistently breached this critical guideline and the implications of this breach are very glaring and has birthed the stranded scholar issue considering the fluctuation of the exchange rate. If funds remitted to institutions were deposited in domiciliary accounts the value will not depreciate. It is pertinent to note that all remittances made to the home institutions of scholars studying abroad are done at the existing exchange rates.

Beyond the exchange rate fluctuation, there are also issues that the stranded scholars have not been very forthright with the Fund which has tended to hinder the Fund's efforts on resolving this challenge. Some key ones are listed:

- i. Scholars who were deemed stranded were those whose study commencement dates were limited to the year 2015, 2016 and 2017. There are scholars who were included in the lists that ought not to be;
- ii. There are scholars who are qualified for additional payments but had not yet submitted invoice for remittance of tuition based on approval;
- iii. There are scholars who claimed to have borrowed money to pay their tuition but are yet to forward supporting documents to validate their claims;
- iv. There are scholars whose tuition had actually been fully paid by their beneficiary institutions, yet they still forwarded same request to the Fund without recourse to their employers;
- v. There are scholars who may have somewhat hiked the tuition fees on approval, but at the point of payment, the invoices submitted were found to be less than sums approved for them yet they are requesting that the difference be paid to them in Naira;
- vi. There are scholars that changed their institutions of study without approval from the Fund and without cognizance to the fact that approvals for the scholarship are based on the original institution of study. Therefore, the invoice submitted for payment of tuition from a new institution of study cannot be tenable;
- vii. There are scholars that had approval for institutions of study in Europe for instance, yet changed their institutions of study to Africa or Far East Asia;
- viii. Some applicants do not wait to confirm receipt of approval (and other clearances), from the Fund before they proceed overseas and they turn out to claim being stranded scholars;
- ix. Some scholars unilaterally deferred their admission or resumption and expecting to begin at their preferred time, failing to understand that the Fund strategically plans its interventions and sponsorship of candidates are done in batches and cannot not be pay attention to whimsical decisions by prospective scholars at the expense of others;
- x. Scholars clamoring to personally handle the payment of their fees, as against Fund's guidelines of paying directly to the training institutions, in a credible, transparent and accountable manner, through statutory institutions like the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); and
- xi. Some scholars raise fake invoices for fees, contrary to those presented by their training institutions' record of fees, and pushing and blackmailing TETFund to honor their requests, irrespective of an avalanche of evidence proving such as false.

Dealing with these issues have somewhat made what should have been a simple exercise complex. Overall, the Fund cannot consider those not willing to submit verifiable invoices for remittance of tuition and those seeking reimbursement only on an imaginary claim of borrowing to pay tuition fees, without supporting documents. Those whose tuition fees have been confirmed but without further approvals from their employers cannot also be considered.

Other than these are those who deliberately inflated their tuition fees, but where further checks revealed lesser amounts. Those requesting that TETFund release the difference of fees to them in Naira, cannot also be factored in, just as those that did not travel at all, and claim to be stranded, even when their parent institutions are yet to process their requests.

Finally, those that changed foreign institutions (within the same country), without approval, whereas tuition had been approved for an original foreign institution, but sent invoice from another institution, and those that have approval for one country but went to another without approval, cannot also be considered.

To be sure, TETFund administers government allocations with the strict adherence to transparency and accountability. The Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro led Management of TETFund is committed to improving the capacity of academic staff of public tertiary institutions and is passionate about addressing the challenges faced by foreign-based scholars. This is being done by application of the Fund's Guidelines on scholarship through fairness and equity and not because of interest groups, cronyism or connection by intending scholars.

TETFund has gone this far to explain the challenges it faces in addressing the issue of Stranded Scholars. The Fund is hopeful that this explanation would serve as sift. Let the stranded scholars sift through our sieve. That way, the real stranded scholars will stand out and their issues fully addressed.

The Fund's response has been very objective to the open letter. However, there is a need to be a little bit subjective. The real stranded scholars should have routed their appeals through their beneficiary institutions. Dr. Muhammed Sanusi Ibrahim and those he claims to represent seem to have breached this procedure. Our records show that the writers' scholarship was awarded in 2014 and not in the range years of 2015 -2017. He is therefore not qualified or eligible to be considered a stranded scholar. Besides, having completed his PhD programme, fully paid and has since returned to Nigeria to resume work in his institution, it may be assumed that he falls in the class of beneficiaries who seek one form of reimbursement or the other, with no supporting document as evidence of the claimed extra-expenditure.

TETFund has consistently invited those with veritable documents to forward them through their home institutions. Those that merited a reimbursement received approvals and were paid.

Finally, what the Fund expects from returnee scholars like Dr Ibrahim is to articulate frameworks that would streamline the TSAS programme, ventilate academic discussions and not embarrassing the Fund and by extension the Federal Government of Nigeria.

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