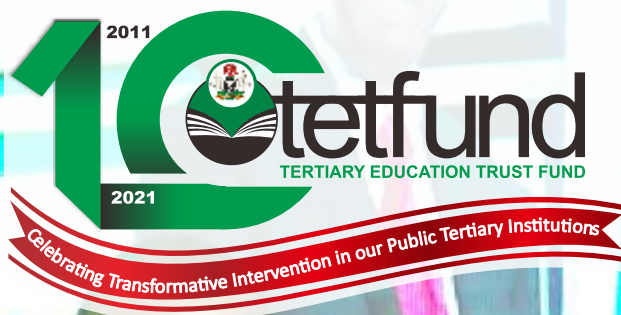


PANORAMA

A Publication of Department of Public Affairs, Tertiary Education Trust Fund.



**Afe Babalola University Names
Research Centre in Honour of
TETFund Boss**



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Infrastructural Gap – Experts**

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STAFF BIRTHDAYS
OUR VISION

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

OUR GOALS

- To continuously improve Education Tax Revenue by ensuring that the tax is collected and made available for TETFund intervention programmes.
- To deliver appropriate and adequate intervention programmes with due regard to

the sensitivities of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

- To promote cutting-edge technologies, ideas and organizational skills in education, and ensure that projects are forward-looking as well as responding to present needs.
- To ensure successful completion of intervention projects.
- To form a viable and enduring partnership between the TETFund and its stakeholders.

- To manage Education Tax in a way that is most beneficial to the Nigerian people.
- To recruit, retain, train and retrain a highly motivated workforce.
- To plan, undertake research and create reliable data bank for improvement of education in Nigeria.
- To ensure accountability and transparency in all its undertakings.

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From The Editor

The acronym, TETFund has become synonymous with growth and development of tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria. However, there are people without whose monetary contributions, the Fund could not stand or make impact in its intervention activities. That was exactly why the Fund took out time to celebrate some the Education Tax contributors for their steadfastness over the years. The epoch-making event was held at the prestigious Lagos Continental hotel, Ikeja, Lagos State, drawing many dignitaries as well as captains of industries. It was a beautiful moment of expression of appreciation and recognition as several companies received awards.

You will also read in this third quarter edition of the numerous activities embarked upon by the Agency, including a two-day working visit to the Afe Babalola University by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, who was honoured by the institution by naming its research center after him. The Executive Secretary was also at the institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), with a charge on fixing Nigeria's problems through research.

TETFund announced to beneficiaries that a whopping sum of N292.66 Billion would be made available to them for the 2021 intervention year, at a one-day Stakeholders forum held in Abuja. In the same vein, experts have disclosed that Nigeria would require nothing less than \$3 trillion to bridge its existing infrastructural development gap.

The Fund has been applauded for another milestone as it was admitted into the Science Granting Councils in sub-Saharan Africa, making Nigeria the 16th member country of the initiative. The British high Commissioner to Nigeria, Ms Catriona Laing described the admission of Nigeria to the SGCI as a positive development.

Determined to quell the scourge of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the Fund has pledged to support the development of vaccine. The was disclosed at a tripartite meeting of the National



ABDULMUMIN B. ONIYANGI
Ag. Director, Public Affairs

Veterinary Research Institute of Medical Research (NVRI), Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

In addition, the TETFund's quest for the establishment of a robust research foundation got a major boost as the Research and Development Foundation Executive Bill Drafting Committee has submitted its report to the Federal Government. Professor Bogoro received the report on behalf of the Minister of education, Mal. Adamu Adamu. The Nigeria Air force also pledged support for the establishment of NRDF, while receiving in audience, members of the defence and Security Sub-committee of RSDCat the Air force Headquarters in Abuja.

An explosive and exclusive interview off the executive Secretary with the Leadership will make an interesting read, as Professor Bogoro took time to x-ray reasons why the Fund is all out to reshape the nation's economy through problem solving research.

Adding more feathers to his cap, the TETFund Boss has continued to garner more awards as he received the highest honour of the Animal Science profession in Nigeria. Recall he is also a Professor of Animal Science with many track records. He was also inducted into the prestigious Animal Science hall of fame.

On a sad note, the Fund lost one of the past Board of Trustees, representing South-West Geopolitical zone, Late Dr. Mrs. Anna Morenikeji Kolawole. She was survived by her husband and five children.

Pictures they say speaks more than a thousand words. This is true of the photo pages, with many events whose reports were better presented pictorially. Staff birthdays is an exciting reminder of the special days for month of July, August, and September babies

FG Injects N2.5 Trillion in Universities, Others in 10 year



The Chairman BoT (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam, during his opening address at the 3rd Edition of the Fund's Taxpayers Forum held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Lagos.

The Federal Government through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has injected over N2.5 trillion in the development of infrastructure and staff capacity development in public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in Nigeria in the last 10 years of establishing the Fund.

This was made known by the Chairman, Board of Trustees of TETFund, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam during the 3rd Edition of the Fund's Taxpayers' Forum held in Lagos recently.

The Chairman also stated that the Fund is targeting more than N500 billion in

Education Tax Collection (EDT) by 2023.

Also speaking at the event, Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu who was represented by his deputy, Olufemi Hamzat, stated that funding for the education sector must be prioritized. He noted that TETFund was then established as a child of necessity to intervene in the ailing university system and that universities in Nigeria would have been worse than the current situation without TETFund.

He, therefore, appealed to private companies operating in Nigeria to be consistent in their remittances, while also charging TETFund to

endeavour to create Silicon Valley for Nigeria and focus on how to take research to the market.

Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, who was represented by the Pro-chancellor of University of Benin, Dr Sonny Kuku, commended the stakeholders for their contributions while assuring them of the determination of the Federal Government to transform the entire landscape of public tertiary education institutions in Nigeria.

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, in his welcome address, said the Taxpayers Forum served as the platform to honour and

“Infrastructure has been given special attention in this regard, because of its decay and collapse across public tertiary institutions in Nigeria at the onset.”



identity individuals and companies that have made tremendous contributions to education through the consistent payment of education tax and have invariably contributed to the development of education and by extension that of the entire nation.

Prof. Bogoro noted that the education tax over the years has been channeled into different activities and areas in line with the mandate of the Fund as enshrined in the establishment Act.

He said: "Infrastructure has been given special attention in this regard, because of its decay and collapse across public tertiary institutions in Nigeria at the onset.

"A careful observation will reveal that the Fund has between January to December 2020 alone carried out 16,982 various

infrastructure projects across beneficiary institutions.

"Considering the projects carried out since inception, based on annual allocation to institutions over the years 2011 to 2021, it is estimated that a total of over 152,838 various infrastructure projects have been carried out across various public tertiary institutions.

"These projects include construction of lecture theatres, classrooms, hostels, offices, laboratories, road networks and fencing of institutions in different parts of the country. Tertiary institutions across the country are dotted with TETFund projects which bear the insignia of the Fund distinctly inscribed on each project.

"Additionally, we have sponsored over 10,632

lecturers in the local Ph.D. program, and over 9,072 lecturers in the local master's degree programme across the country between 2011 and 2020.

"The Fund has also sponsored over 4,485 lecturers to overseas institutions for Ph.D. programs and over 3,192 Master's degree candidates also overseas, across tertiary institutions within the same period.

"The Fund has further supported 71,263 Lecturers in Federal and State Colleges of Education under its teacher supervision program, bringing to a total 98,644, the number of academic staff across public tertiary institutions that have benefited from the academic staff training and development programme of the Fund," he said.

Afe Babalola University Names Research Centre in Honour of TETFund Boss

The Management of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti (ABUAD) has named a research facility in honour of the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro in recognition of his immense contributions towards the institutionalization of R&D in Nigeria.

This came to light when the Executive Secretary, on the invitation of the university management, paid a 2-day working visit to the institution in Ado Ekiti recently.

The research facility named "The S.E Bogoro Centre" comprises two institutes namely the Institute for Drug Research and Development and Institute for One Health.

Speaking at a meeting between the university management and TETFund

delegation to the institution, founder of the university, Aare Afe Babalola expressed his desire and commitment towards the provision of quality education in the country and commended

because it is only quality education that can change a man.

"Out of your passion for education, you have decided to find a way to support research for private institutions," he said.

In his remarks, Prof. Bogoro commended Aare Afe Babalola for his huge investment in

education and expressed appreciation over the Research Centre named in his honour.

He reiterated his commitment towards the institutionalization of R&D in the country, expressing confidence that with the establishment of a National Research and Development Foundation, Nigeria would be on its path to becoming a competitive knowledge economy.



L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro in a chat with the founder, Afe Babalola University (ABUAD), Ado Ekiti, Prof. Afe Babalola, during a 2-Day working visit to the institution by some delegation from TETFund.

Prof. Bogoro for his efforts in quality education delivery and promotion of R&D for national development.

He also commended the Executive Secretary for his role in creating a window for private tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria to benefit from TETFund's research grants.

"I appreciate your passion for quality education, so we have a common ground

Bogoro Charges IAR&T on Problem-Solving, Nation-Fixing Multi-disciplinary Research

As part of efforts towards making Nigeria a knowledge economy and attaining food sufficiency, the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro has called on the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T) of Obafemi Awolowo University sited in Ibadan, to develop a new focus of conducting “problem-solving and nation-fixing multi-disciplinary research that responds to national aspiration with forex



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during his presentation at the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T) of the Obafemi Awolowo University.

“The core mandates of Research and Training of IAR&T should be leveraged to lead Nigeria’s agricultural sector towards becoming the pivotal sector of the new knowledge economy.”

earning potentials”.

Prof. Bogoro made the call while delivering a paper titled Research for Development in Agriculture Sector: The Role of Research Institutes in Innovative Value Chain Transformation at the first annual lecture of IAR&T held in Ibadan recently.

He stated that multi-commodity value chain agricultural research institutes such as IAR&T have some responsibilities to

lead value added, innovative and transformative research in top food and cash crops in collaboration with other relevant institutes across the country.

According to the Executive Secretary, IAR&T could attain global competitiveness through focus on the institutionalization of R&D in the agricultural sector of the economy, by leading the implementation of the recommendations of global,



L-R Former Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole; Vice-Chancellor, Obademi Awolowo University, Prof. Eytipe Ogunbodede; Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro; Director, IAR&T, Prof. Veronica Obatolu and Chairman, TETFund's National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee, Prof. Olufemi Babiro during the presentation of IAR&T Award of Excellence to Prof. Bogoro at the event.

continental, regional and national development requirements.

"The core mandates of Research and Training of IAR&T should be leveraged to lead Nigeria's agricultural sector towards becoming the pivotal sector of the new knowledge economy.

"It is worthy of note that the traditional outputs of agricultural activities include food for humans, feed for animals, raw materials for industries, job/income for the citizens and revenue for government. The rejuvenation of these outputs using R&D tools will reposition IAR&T as a national and global reference institute," he said.

Prof. Bogoro called for a more robust relationship between Obafemi Awolowo University, IAR&T, and the Department of Agriculture

of the university for greater efficiency.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Prof. Eytipe Ogunbodede expressed appreciation to Prof. Bogoro for accepting the invitation of IAR&T to deliver its first annual lecture, adding that his acceptance has placed the annual lecture series on a sound foundation, raising the bar very high for subsequent lectures.

In her welcome remarks, the Director of IAR&T, Prof. Veronica Obatolu stated that "It is not an overstatement to note that the desire for the diversification of our national economy away from mono-product economy based on oil can only be achieved through research-driven value chain development in agriculture.

"That is why IAR&T is delighted and immensely proud to initiate an annual lecture like this and the first of its kind to be given by no other person than Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, who has been playing a significant role in recognizing and promoting research and development in our research and training system towards the socio-economic development of our nation state"

Present at the event were former Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole; Chairman of TETFund's National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee, Prof. Olufemi Bamiro; Director R&D and Centres of Excellence TETFund, Dr. Salihu Girei Bakari; Technical Assistant to the Executive Secretary on R&D, Dr. Mustapha Ayo Popoola among others.

Nigeria Needs \$3trn to Bridge Infrastructural Gap – Experts



An Aerial View of the President Muhammadu Buhari Main Library, at the Kwara State University (KWASU) Malete, Kwara State.

Research experts have stated that Nigeria needs not less than \$3 trillion to meet its present infrastructure needs.

Speaking during a virtual meeting on institutionalization of R&D in Infrastructure Development Thematic Group of the TETFund Research and Development Standing Committee, RDSC, they stressed the importance of infrastructural development to economic growth.

A lecturer at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof Muhammed Usman, in a

presentation, said between 2009 and 2013, Nigeria invested a paltry \$664 per capita per annum in infrastructure, representing 3 per cent of its GDP, compared with an average investment of \$3,060, or 5 per cent of GDP in developed countries.

Usman noted that this has widened the country's infrastructure gap and has been a major impediment to economic growth.

He noted that this “poses a major funding challenge in the face of the current fiscal imbalances. Besides, the country is currently

grappling with the hydra-headed problems of inflation (17.33%), unemployment (33.3%) and rising debt.”

“Infrastructure development plays a pivotal role in enhancing economic growth, improving living standards, reducing poverty, and contributing to environmental sustainability.”

He said with the rapid growth of the country's population, the demand for infrastructure is outpacing its supply, adding that the country's weak infrastructures were

exposed in the wake of the global pandemic in 2020.

Speaking earlier, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of Nigeria Economic Summit Group, NESG, Mr Laoye Jaiyeola, who chaired the meeting, noted that infrastructure is a major hindrance to the country's competitive development.

Jaiyeola said one of the challenges facing the private

has hindered us from significant development locally.

"So, this thematic group comes in at a time when all of us are looking at how can we ensure that we do significant backward integration; how can we ensure that we make the environment very competitive enough that not only do we meet the needs of our people locally, but

and yet bring back coffee and chocolate to the country. Or export our hides and skin, and yet bring back leather to the country," he said.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of TETFund Prof Suleiman Bogoro, said the fund was reviewing a report of the draft executive bill on the establishment of the National Research and Development Foundation,



Front View of Prof. Abubakar Rasheed Senate Building, Bayero University, Kano State.

sector was infrastructure, adding that the country needs funds annually to finance infrastructure if it must get out of the rocks.

"I have been involved in a lot of surveys that look at the competitiveness of nations, and each time we look at our ranking around where we are in the world competitiveness index of doing business, one thing that stands out is the poor level of our infrastructure, and the extent to which it

good enough for the outside market that we can export.

"Nigeria has been a nation where we are still at a very primary level of industrialization; by this I mean we have abundant resource of crude oil but we spend significant amount of money importing fuel.

"And so, we can't use this crude oil to get all the assorted benefits we have yet we export our raw materials in terms of cocoa

NRDF, earlier received from the RDSC.

Bogoro said he is in contact with the leadership of RDSC and other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of offering informed advice on the final document that will leave his desk, and proceed to the ministry of education, for it to be considered as a document worthy of being taken to the Federal Executive Council.

"I am excited, particularly listening to the cross-cutting

issues. If there is any area that has cross cutting imperatives, across the other sectors is infrastructure.

"I wonder if there is any aspect of the routine life around economy, technology and in all human activities or livelihood in its entirety that does not require infrastructure. That underlines the importance of this sub-committee," he explained.

The TETFund boss commended the committee for traveling around the country to come up with "the information that reminds us of the gaps to, indeed, tell us what we need to do to close the gap between Nigeria and the more advanced nations."

Speaking on TETFund's interventions, he said "We have raised our interest to the level of knowing the microscopic application of

our funds that have impact on the key areas of not just the Tertiary institutions. That we are directly funding but the ancillary partners, including research institutes, the industry, the larger picture of Nigeria in the biggest of context."

Bogoro said for too long tertiary Institutions in the country operated as if they can survive alone, adding that the walls must be collapsed to ensure that the institutions synergize and get assistance from those in the industry.

He expressed gratitude to the Academic Staff Union of Universities, (ASUU), for proceeding to identify the institutionalization of NRDF as part of its negotiations with the Federal Government.

Speaking on the quality of TETFund projects, he said exactly five years ago, the

Nigeria Society of Engineers picked TETFund as exemplary in terms of the quality of its projects.

He disclosed that the Board of Trustees has decided that 90 per cent of TETFund scholars will be in the sciences, adding however that TETFund will not suggest topics for the doctoral thesis of scholars abroad.

In his remarks, the Chairman of RDSC, Prof Njidda Gadzama, who stressed the importance of infrastructure, said whatever is done in terms of development cannot be successful without infrastructure.

Gadzama said if the country had sustained the Petroleum Trust Fund, PTF, intervention initiated during the military era, the country would have gone far in terms of its infrastructure.



Front View of Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

TETFund Joins Science Granting Councils in Sub-Saharan Africa



The Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) in sub-Saharan Africa has announced the admission of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to the Initiative to advance research excellence in sub-Saharan Africa.

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships at the National Research Foundation-South Africa and SGCI Executive Committee Member, Dr Aldo Stroebe said through the admission of TETFund of Nigeria to the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), Nigeria has become the 16th country in SGCL.

Dr Stroebe said initially, Nigeria will join other SGCs through the SGCI Annual Forum, bilateral exchange visits and other activities to share lessons in managing research funds for maximum impact and to identify areas for future collaboration such

as joint research calls.

Speaking on the development, Vice-President, Programs and Partnership Branch at Canada's International Development Research Centre, Dr Dominique Charron, extolled the population strength of Nigeria saying this will expand potential for Science Granting Councils.

In her reaction, the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ms Catriona Laing CB said the admission of Nigeria to the SGCI is a positive development that will better position Nigeria to maximize the use of research with critical consideration for social and economic priorities.

Reacting to the development, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof.

Suleiman Elias Bogoro said the admission of the Fund into the SGCI will open a new vista of opportunities that will provide platforms that would further transit Nigeria to a knowledge-based economy.

"We are confident that our admission into SGCI will open a new window of opportunities that will provide platforms that can serve as a fulcrum in achieving our goals of Nigeria's transition to a knowledge economy in the 21st century. We are assured of quality partnerships and collaborations on the continent of Africa and beyond", he said.

Prof. Bogoro added that National growth and competitiveness in the context of the globalized economy depends on continuous technological

improvement and innovation driven by well-organized vibrant Research.

The Science Granting Councils Initiative has been jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO,

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the German Research Foundation (DFG).

The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of Science Granting Councils (SGCs) in sub-Saharan Africa in order to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development.

TETFund to Disburse N292.66 Billion to Beneficiary Institutions



From 3rd Right: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Director, F&I (TETFund) Alhaji Saidu Idris, Director, ESS (TETFund) Engr. Mustapha Gotla, Ag. Director, ICT (TETFund) Mr Joseph Odo, Deputy Director, ESS (TETFund) Mr Okunlola S. Kolapo and the Director, SPD (TETFund), Arc. Eriwwo E. Inene, during a One-Day Stakeholder Briefing organized for all Heads of Beneficiary Institutions, held in Abuja.

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) is to disburse the sum of N292.66 billion as 2021 intervention funds to public Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education across the country.

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro made this known at a one-day stakeholders' briefing held at the Nigeria Air Force Conference Centre, Abuja, recently.

He said the intervention, which had been approved by the Federal Government, would be spread to higher educational institutions in each of the six geo-political zones in the country.

According to the 2021 disbursement plans, TETFund is to give N906 million to each public university while N628 million will go to one polytechnic and one college of education across the six geo-political zones.

At the meeting, which had heads of beneficiary institutions and their representatives in attendance, Prof. Bogoro also explained that the responsibility of completing the National Library Project in Abuja has been bestowed on TETFund.

According to him, the library project represents an important national asset that shouldn't be ignored on account of funding challenges.

Bogoro also stressed the importance of research to national development, noting that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has been consistent in approving funds to see that academics churn out quality research that would address emerging challenges bedeviling the country.

Letters of allocation were presented by the Fund to beneficiary institutions at the event.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro presenting Letters of Allocation to one of the attendees at the One-Day Stakeholder Briefing held in Abuja.

Air Chief Pledges Support for Establishment of National R&D Foundation



L-R: The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amao, presenting an Award of Recognition to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, when the TETFund Team paid a working visit to the Defence Headquarters in Abuja.

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amao has pledged the support of the Nigerian Airforce for the

establishment of a National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF), being canvassed by the Research and Development Standing

Committee (RDSC) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Air Marshal Amao made the pledge when members of the Defence and Security Subcommittee of RDSC paid him a courtesy visit at the Airforce Headquarters in Abuja recently.

He commended TETFund for its transformation efforts in various public tertiary educational institutions in the country both in the area of infrastructural development and funding of Research and Development (R&D).



From 7th Right: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amao, AVM Jomo Onyemaechi Osahor (Rtd), with some Directors from TETFund members of the RDSC/Defence & Security Sub-Committee, and some Air Force personnel, during a courtesy visit to the Defence Headquarters in Abuja

The Chief of Air Staff also commended the Fund for its sincerity in the disbursement of R&D funds.

"It is one thing to have an organization that oversees R&D; it is another thing for the organization to also look for other institutions that will need those funds for R&D. You are not just sitting in your office and waiting for people to come, but you are also coming to us. We highly appreciate your commitment, and it shows that you are very sincere; that you want to spend the money for what it is meant for," he said.

Speaking on the importance of research funding particularly in the area of Defence and Security, the Air Chief stated that due to some difficulties sometimes

encountered in procuring military platforms and their spares from other countries, the Nigerian Air Force had to look inward to improve on the serviceability of its equipment and see how it could also produce some of its own platforms through R&D.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, who led the delegation on the visit expressed appreciation to the Chief of Air Staff for meeting with the Sub-committee.

He gave a brief insight into the history of TETFund and the Fund's current drive at promoting the content component of its intervention, particularly Research and Development. The drive, he said,

culminated in the inauguration of the RDSC by the Minister of Education in 2020, to lay the foundation for Nigeria's knowledge economy to be competitive.

The Executive Secretary commended the Nigerian

"Nigerian Airforce has been doing a great job. The fight against insurgency, and if it were anything to protect our territorial integrity, it requires the most precise technology. We cannot fail to recognize this."

Airforce for its efforts in the fight against insurgency in the country, even while emphasizing the need to deploy the most precise technology.

“Nigerian Airforce has been doing a great job. The fight against insurgency, and if it were anything to protect our territorial integrity, it requires the most precise technology. We cannot fail to recognize this.

“I know that the Nigeria Airforce has demonstrated its capabilities. All of us from TETFund; and on behalf of RDSC and the Defence and Security Sub-committee, we are proud of what all of you are doing for our nation. You have laid your lives for us, and history will judge you fairly,” he said.

Also speaking at the meeting, Coordinator of the Defence and Security Sub-committee of RDSC, AVM Jomo Onyemaechi Osahor (Rtd) stated that the purpose of the visit to the Chief of Air Staff was to brief him on the role of the Subcommittee and seek “strategic guidance” from him.

He stated that the paradigm being promoted by TETFund is “to institutionalize Research and Development in order to project Nigeria into a knowledge-based economy, through need-based, well-articulated and well-funded R&D”.

According to him, “the role of the Defence and Security Sub-committee is to harness

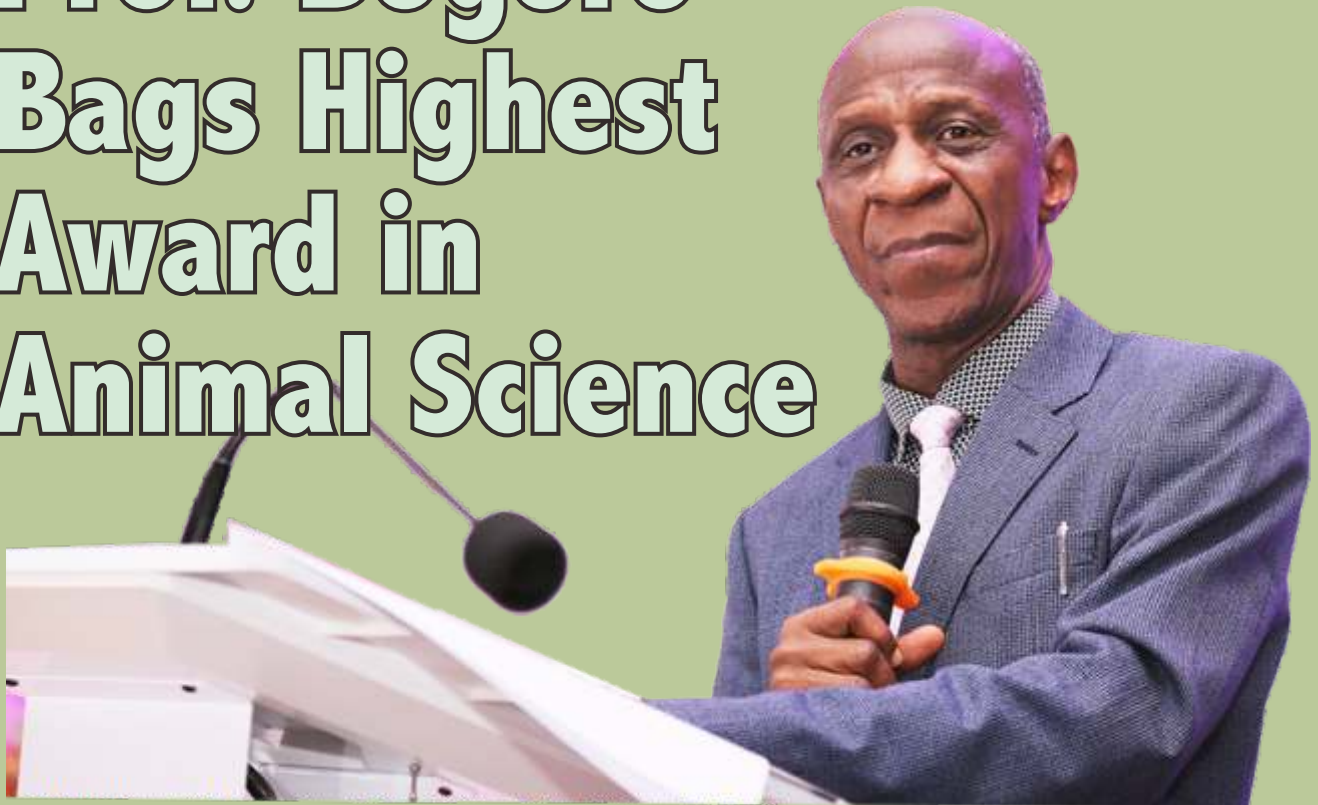
“I know that the Nigeria Airforce has demonstrated its capabilities. All of us from TETFund; and on behalf of RDSC and the Defence and Security Sub-committee, we are proud of what all of you are doing for our nation.”

the intellectual resources among the academia and the capabilities in our industries in line with the need of the Armed Forces in order to enhance national security”.



Cross Section of members of the RDSC/Defence & Security Sub-Committee, with some Air Force Personnel, during a working visit by the Sub-Committee to Defence Headquarters in Abuja.

Prof. Bogoro Bags Highest Award in Animal Science



The Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro has received the highest honour of the Animal Science profession in Nigeria.

Bogoro, who is also a Professor of Animal Science, was inducted into the prestigious Animal Science hall of fame for his achievements and contributions to the sub-sector.

The award was conferred on him at the 10th Nigeria Institute of Animal Science/National Association of Animal Science Conference held in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capitals.

Presenting the award, the President of Nigeria Institute of Animal Science, Prof Baba Abubakar, said Bogoro has consistently supported the profession, by funding Animal Science conferences, activities and programmes.

Abubakar said in some instances, he provided grants to postgraduate students of Animal Science to enhance the quality of their research.

"His enthusiasm for a paradigm shift from a commodity-based to a knowledge-based economy has led to the inauguration of the TETFund standing committee on Research and Development to cover the various sub-sectors.

"He is highly admired and respected in the Animal Science profession and beyond. This honour does not come to us as a surprise.

"His highly remarkable ability to identify talents has led him to assemble what we can refer to as the creme de la creme of this unprecedented laudable initiative across the length and breadth of this country," he said.

According to him, the eventful birth of the National Research and Development Foundation, (NRDF) will indeed be Bogoro's gift to the nation. He said the TETFund Executive Secretary has most uniquely remained

focused on advocating for increased funding research and development and most especially, increased funding for agricultural research.

The award was received on behalf of the Executive Secretary of TETFund by Dr Mustapha Popoola, his Technical Assistant on Research and Development, while Bogoro was joined virtually to deliver his acceptance remarks.

Responding, the TETFund boss thanked leaders of the institute for the award, stating that the induction was coming from a profession that he is proud of.

He pledged to continue to play a supportive role for the institute especially at this time that the agricultural sector is underperforming because of a number of things that have not been done right.

Bogoro said his advocacy for the institutionalization of research and development in the animal science subsector was to create the opportunity to inject value addition in the agricultural sector.

He said the absence of such value addition has been responsible for the poor performance of the Agric sector. "It pains me that some years back, the Agric

sector in Nigeria was contributing 41% of the GDP of the nation. It went down to 35 recently. That is unacceptable.

"And the livestock sector is the worst for it. It has continued to be the most laggard of the two sub-sectors and I believe that we all have a responsibility to reverse this status because in more advanced economies, in the Agric sector, the livestock sub-sector contributes more in terms of fiscal value," he said.

In the past few years, Bogoro has bagged several awards, which include Leadership Public Service Person of the Year (2019), Business Day Excellence in Public Service (2019), Special Recognition Award of Nigerian Society of Animal Production (2019), Agricultural Development and Practice Award Landmark University, Omo-Aran Kwara State, Nigeria (2017).

Others are, African Achievers Award for Excellence and Service to Humanity (2016), Nigerian Society for Animal Production Captain of Industry Award (2015), Newswatch Magazine Overall Best Chief Executive Officer in the Nigerian Public Sector (2015), Merit Award by Tapshin Development Association for Promotion of Education, Scholarship

Endowment and Community Service (2009) and Fellow of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production (FNSAP) (2009).

Similarly, the TETFund boss also in 2008 bagged a Distinguished Education Merit Award by the National Union of Bauchi State Students (NUBASS), January, chieftaincy title of 'Ekwueme Of Aboh-Mbaise' (meaning, a man of his words), in 2006, in appreciation of his adjudged meritorious service as chairman, governing council, Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri in 2006 and the Distinguished Merit Award for Excellence and Community Service by the Lagos branch of Zaar Development Association (ZDA) in 2006.

Speaking at the occasion, the President of African Development Bank, AfDB, Akinwunmi Adesina, represented by Emmanuel Adesina, said the AfDB recognises the livestock sub-sector as important in the postcovid-19 recovery effort.

Adesina said that is why in 2021 and 2022, the African Development Bank plans to spend \$700 million to support livestock development projects across African countries.

R&D Foundation Executive Bill Drafting Committee Submits Report

The National Research and Development Foundation (NRDF) Executive Bill Draft Committee has submitted its report to the Federal Government, making way for the establishment of a research foundation in Nigeria.

Presenting the Executive Draft Bill to the Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, in Abuja recently, the chairman of the committee, Professor Auwal Yadudu, said the proposed document contains massive innovative ideas that would propel the knowledge economy in Nigeria.

The legal luminary, who commended the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, for constituting the committee and for his vision for R&D, said the country stands to reap bountifully when the bill is passed into law.

"This is a bill which seeks to establish a National Research and Development Foundation to institutionalize, mainstream and commercialize research and development; promote innovation and support enterprise development for job and wealth creation for knowledge driven economy. This is the key thing,"



Mallam Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education

Professor Yadudu said.

While applauding Bogoro as the Senior Advocate of Research (SAR) for his unwavering commitment to fully enthrone a culture of cutting-edge research that collaborate with industries, Yadudu said the draft bill identified viable source of funding for the proposed National R&D Foundation as well as a robust autonomous governing structure.

Receiving the document on behalf of the Minister of Education, Professor Bogoro said the draft executive bill when applied into full force, would open a new chapter in the technological and industrial development of the country.

"A foundation has been laid

for driving Nigeria's knowledge economy appropriately. When people talk of knowledge economy, I always say not the knowledge but research driven deeper knowledge, that is what makes the difference," he said.

While saying the foundation would go a long way to ensuring Nigeria's future is driven by knowledge, Professor Bogoro thanked the committee for a job well done.

"The Ministry of Education is very appreciative of the great job you people have done. It is on behalf of the minister I am receiving this document and I know it is a well packaged document," he said.

PHOTO SPEAK



PHOTO SPEAK



PHOTO SPEAK



PHOTO SPEAK



PHOTO SPEAK



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro making some remarks during the Tripartite meeting between the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI); the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (UDUS) on mutual collaboration for vaccine development, in Vom, Plateau State.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro having a chat with the Executive Director, National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom, Dr. Maryam Muhammad during the Tripartite meeting between the NVRI, Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (UDUS) on mutual collaboration for vaccine development, in Vom, Plateau State.



L-R: The Executive Director, National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom, Dr. Maryam Muhammad; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Vice Chancellor, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis during the Tripartite meeting on mutual collaboration for vaccine development between NVRI, NIMR and UDUS.



L-R: The Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Jos, Prof. Lami Hannatu Lombin; the Vice Chancellor, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Executive Director, National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom, Dr. Maryam Muhammad on a tour of research facilities at the Institute during the Tripartite meeting on mutual collaboration for vaccine development between NVRI, NIMR and UDUS in Vom, Plateau State.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (4th Right) in a group photograph with some members of staff and participants at the R&D meeting held in Abuja.

Air Chief Pledges Support for Establishment of National R&D Foundation



THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) MEETING, HELD IN ABUJA



PHOTO SPEAK



L-R: Ag. Director, ICT, Mr. Joseph Odo; Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, Engr. Mustapha Gotala; Director, Finance and Investment, Alh. Idris Saidu; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro; the Director, Strategic Planning and Development, Arc. Eriwvolnene and the Ag. Director, Education Support Services, Okunlola Kolapo during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro delivering his address during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), presenting Allocation Letters to the Rector, Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Prof. Ibrahim Umar during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), presenting Allocation Letters to the Provost, Federal College of Education (Technical) Asaba, Dr. Mrs. Josephine Anene-Okeakwa during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), presenting Allocation Letters to the Vice Chancellor, Federal University Wukari, Prof. AbubakarKundiri during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), presenting Allocation Letters to the Rector, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Engr. Dr. Michael Arimanwa during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (left), presenting Allocation Letters to the Provost Imo State of College of Education Dr. Bonn Asiegbu during the 2021 TETFund Stakeholder Briefing for Beneficiary Institutions which was held in Abuja, recently.



Cross section of participants at 105th Bi-Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Association of University Librarians of Nigeria Universities (AULNU), held at the National Universities Commission in Abuja.



The representative of the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), Dr Faruq Mohammed Lawal, during the 105th Bi-Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (AULNU), held at the National Universities Commission Main Auditorium in Abuja.



The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Middle), the Chairman, Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities (AULNU), Dr Adbulkadir A. Idris and Dr (Mrs) Okeje I.E, during the 105th Bi-Annual Conference and General Meeting of Association of University Librarians of Nigerian Universities, held at the National Universities Commission Main Auditorium in Abuja.



From L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai (rtd), Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, Honorable Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Chris Ngige, Honorable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu and the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Arc. Sonny Echeno during the Inauguration of Chairmen and Members of Governing Councils to 19 Federal Universities and 4 Inter- University Centres, held at the National Universities Commission Main Auditorium in Abuja.

PHOTO SPEAK



From R-L: TETFund BoT Member representing South East, Chief UcheUfearo, TETFundBoT Member representing South West, Sen. Ganiyu Solomon, Ag. Director Admin and Finance (NIIA), Mr Sunday Adah, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, the Director General, Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos (NIIA), Prof. Eghosa Osaghae, Executive Secretary of NUC, Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, NIIA Liaison Officer in Abuja, Mr Christian Nwaigwe and NIIA Senior Research Fellow, Dr Godwin Ichimi in a group photograph, during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Right) and the Director General, Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos (NIIA), Prof. Eghosa Osaghae (Left) having a chat with Prof. Suleiman Bogoro in his office, during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Right) and the Director General, Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos (NIIA), Prof. Eghosa Osaghae (Left) exchanging pleasantries, during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Director General, Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Lagos (NIIA), Prof. Eghosa Osaghae (Left) signing the TETFund Visitor's Registered, during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro presenting a souvenir to the Executive Secretary, National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC), Mr. Benjamin Obale Abakpa during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



L-R: The Executive Secretary, National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC), Mr. Benjamin Obale Abakpa; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Director, Secondary Education, Federal Ministry of Education, Hajiya Binta Abdulkadir during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) with the Pro Chancellor, ATBU Bauchi, Alh. Bukar Goni Aji during a courtesy visit to the Fund.

PHOTO SPEAK



The Commandant, National Defence College, Rear Admiral O.B Daji (left) presenting a commemorative plaque to the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) presenting a souvenir to the Commandant, National Defence College, Rear Admiral O.B Daji during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



L-R: Brig Gen E.F Oyinola; C.F Umar; AVM E.O Chukwu; the Commandant, National Defence College, Rear Admiral O.B Daji; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro; Acting Provost, Ms Julie Sanda; Cmdre A.A Odumu and Brig Gen S.A Gumel during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (3rd right); the Pro Chancellor, ATBU Bauchi, Alh. Bukar Goni Aji (3rd left); the Vice Chancellor, ATBU, Prof. Muhammadu Ahmad Abdulazeez (2nd left) and other principal officers of the Institution during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (right) presenting a souvenir to the Commandant, Nigerian Police Academy, Wudil, AIG. Lawan Tanko Jimeta during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



L-R: The Commandant, Nigerian Police Academy, Wudil, AIG. Lawan Tanko Jimeta; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro and the Bursar of the Academy, Mal. Aminu Hussaini Agata during a courtesy visit to the Fund.



The Commandant, Nigerian Police Academy, Wudil, AIG. Lawan Tanko Jimeta (left) with the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro during a courtesy visit to the Fund.

PHOTO SPEAK

PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK LUNCH OF EMERITUS PROF. NJIDDA MAMADU GADZAMA, TITLED: STANDING FOR TRUTH WITH COURAGE



TETFund Pledges Support for Infectious Disease Vaccine Development



The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (center) with other dignitaries, on a tour of research facilities at the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom during the Tripartite meeting on mutual collaboration for vaccine development between NVRI, NIMR and UDUS.

The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro has stated that there is a window for the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) Vom to partake in TETFund's National Research Fund (NRF) grant.

He made this known while speaking at the Tripartite meeting of the NVRI; Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), and Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS) on mutual collaboration on Vaccine Development which held in Vom, Plateau State.

Speaking on the Fund's input in Research and Development, the TETFund boss stated that the agency disburses the largest research grant in Nigeria through the TETFund NRF and reminded the audience about the National Covid-19 Consortium which is domiciled in the Fund.

He further affirmed the Fund's engagement with key stakeholders to foster the Institutionalisation of the National Research Foundation through the TETFund's Research and Development Standing Committee.

He said more funds need to be committed to research, and that was why he made a case to the Board of Trustees in 2019 to increase the TETFund National Research Fund grant to N5 Billion, and which today stands at N8.5 Billion, following a recent upward review of the figure by President Muhammadu Buhari.

With regards to the NVRI, the TETFund Boss pointed out that the Institute has earned its name, reputation and ranking and for a long time, was the only Vaccine producing Research Institute in West Africa. He however

noted that the institute no longer produces Vaccines, but that the situation can be reversed. He argued that all the human capacity required for the development of vaccines are obtainable from the tripartite collaboration.

Bogoro further stated that "at TETFund we realized that we have the physical laboratories yet they are not equipped with cutting-edge equipment whether for molecular research or other purposes especially the sciences, then it is half measure". It is for the same reason the Executive Secretary made a commitment to support the revival of derelict vaccine production cells, equipment and vials, as well as personnel capacity building.

He commended the UDUS for leading in innovative drive along the right

direction; promoting problem solving research under the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis who according to the Executive Secretary is one of the best partners TETFund has in its current drive towards the institutionalization of research and development in Nigeria.

Meanwhile the Executive Director, NVRI Dr Maryam Muhammed in her remarks expressed gratitude to the key stakeholders who are engaged in a partnership on local vaccine development. She said the Institute has been in the fore front of vaccine development and production for almost 100 years.

She expressed great optimism over the level of work and partnership among some Nigerian

Researchers and Institutes in the race to locally develop a vaccine against COVID-19.

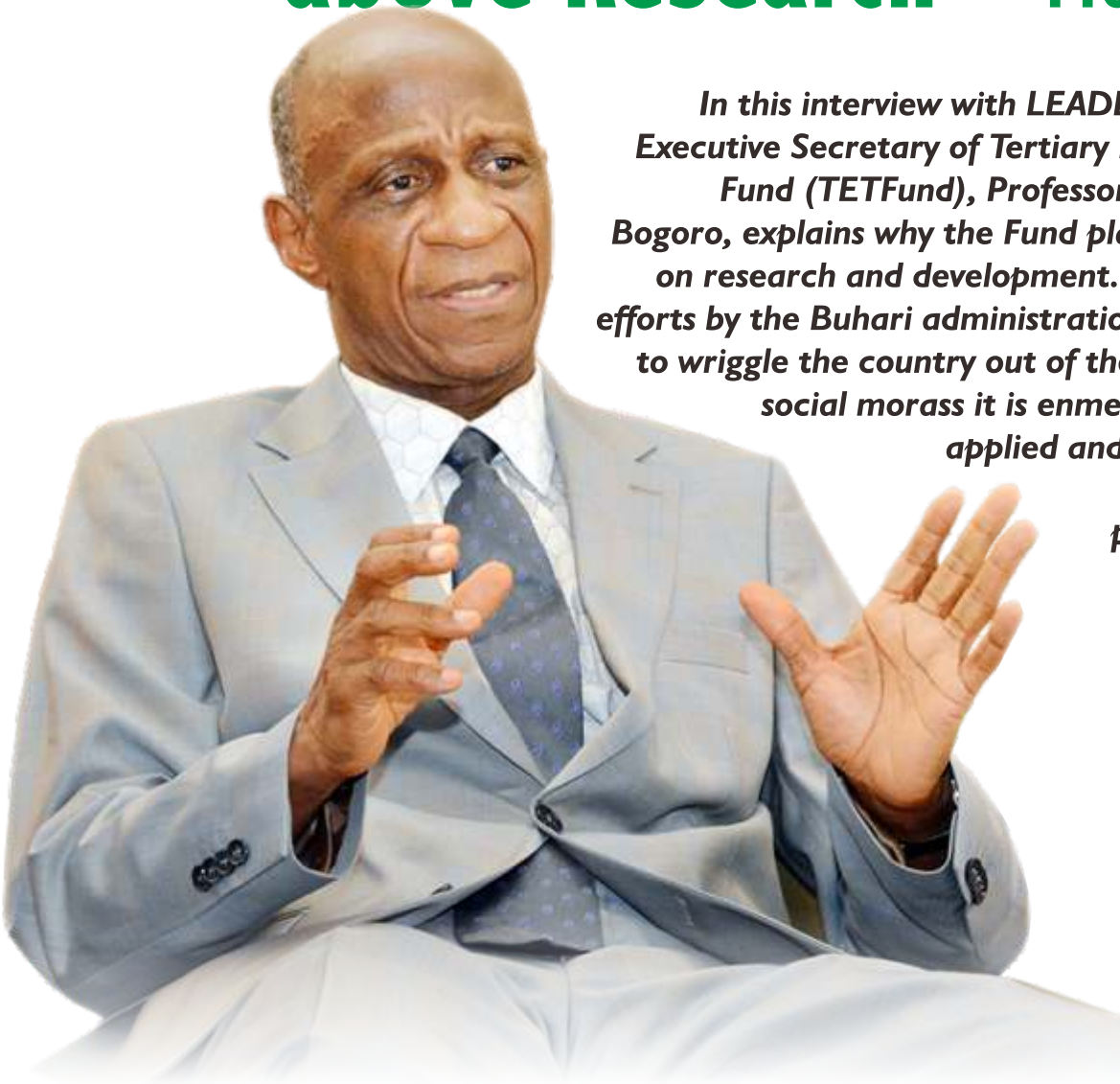
Dr Muhammed said, "we believe that this tripartite arrangement will bring about an accelerated design and development, and production of COVID-19 vaccine that will be achieved through this arrangement and the work will be done by the scientists in the three institutions".

Other speakers at the event were the Vice Chancellor, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), Prof Lawal Suleiman Bilbis; Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Former Executive Director, NVRI, Prof Lami Lombin and a researcher at the Center for Advanced Medical Research and Training, UDUS, Dr Bello Bashir Tambuwal.



L-R: The Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Jos, Prof. Lami Hannatu Lombin; the Vice Chancellor, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis; the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro; the Executive Director, National Veterinary Research Institute Vom, Dr. Maryam Muhammad and the representative of the DG NIMR, Dr. Olugbemiga Ainawith other dignitaries during the Tripartite meeting on mutual collaboration for vaccine development between NVRI, NIMR and UDUS in Vom, Plateau State.

It's Colonial Heritage for Nigerian Varsities to Emphasise Teaching above Research — Prof Bogoro



In this interview with LEADERSHIP Sunday, Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro, explains why the Fund places a premium on research and development. He also reveals efforts by the Buhari administration and TETFund to wriggle the country out of the economic and social morass it is enmeshed in through applied and developmental research for problem solving.

It has been over a decade since the establishment of TETFund. To what extent has the agency achieved its mandates?

TETFund metamorphosed from the Education Trust Fund (ETF). So I would say yes because TETFund, as

an acronym representing that organisation for 10 years, but the organisation that became TETFund in 2011 predates it by more than 10 years. We know that it existed for almost 18 years before it became or was renamed with a slightly modified mandate in 2011. I can tell you because I am privileged to have been part

of the team that negotiated from the platform of ASUU in 1990 to 92. So, I would say I know the story. I know that it was created by law as an education tax fund initially, and then later trust fund. We did not anticipate that the law would create windows for institutions and entities that were not initially the priority to benefit. And that is how a number of institutional bodies and the basic sub sector benefited from the ETF, including primary schools and secondary schools. In fact, a number of institutions outside the education sector benefited but that was not our idea. That's why ASUU insisted in subsequent negotiations with the government to return to the original focus, which was the tertiary sub sector.

Specifically, it was meant for universities, polytechnics, and Colleges of Education owned by the federal government and states. And let me say this; what led to the demand for a non appropriation funding window for tertiary education institutions in Nigeria, especially the public ones, was inadequate funding. The funding seemed to affect that sub sector and we decided to consider a non-budgetary funding window. That is why the two per cent education tax was innovated, the government accepted it, and it came into being with an agreement between ASUU and the government. It came into being by law in 1993 as ETF that is TETFund today from 2011. In summary, I would say the purpose has been significantly achieved. I would wish that it were even better than this but along the line, there were hiccups.

But from 2011 when the focus became clear - the tertiary sub sector, we have seen more visible effects of the application of the 2 per cent education tax. So I would say to a large extent that there is a sense of fulfillment by observers, stakeholders, and I think overall, Nigerians from the response across the country. So, that

speaks volumes about the importance and the significance and the impact of TETFund since it came into being as it is so designated from 2011, exactly 10 years.

Under your watch, TETFund's profile has risen in the international community beyond Africa to the level that other countries like Ghana and Tanzania have come to understudy Nigeria's TETFund to enable them establish their own version of the Fund. What would you say is the magic wand?

Thank you for that particular question. In fairness, even before I was appointed ES of TETFund some of the African countries actually have come to understudy the Fund. So, I will give credit to my predecessors also. I will describe the ETF and TETFund as innovative creation that took deep thinking because the traditional funding window for the tertiary sub sector literally failed the nation. When ASUU went on strike in 1992, I recall that at that time we had said Universities were effectively glorified secondary schools because even fiscal infrastructure as a reference that you talk about were almost not that. They were in such a bad state. And if there was a state, they could describe that as it was decrepit. In other words, they had gone bad. They were almost collapsing, parts of them were collapsing. They were not maintained and no new ones came up as one would wish. So, there was this innovative, non-budgetary funding window, the first of its type in Africa. I can say this; no doubt about it. It went as a big credit to the innovators and the government deserved commendation because we said, 'look, in Nigeria generally we are very poor in ensuring people pay taxes and of the diverse types of taxes, education funding is a major problem. Why don't you create

one?' And I remember at that time, ASUU had said, 'Most major operators in the private sector were not paying enough tax. Let us introduce the education tax'. And it has worked and that is why you can see other African countries coming today as it obtains. You would agree with me that TETFund is virtually responsible for essentially the capital expenditure component for public tertiary institutions and the budgetary window remains there to address other aspects like personnel costs and day to day running of the institutions.

So, it was really innovative and that's why other African countries have come and in fact, let me say this, you are right to have said the profile of TETFund has risen in the eyes of the international community beyond

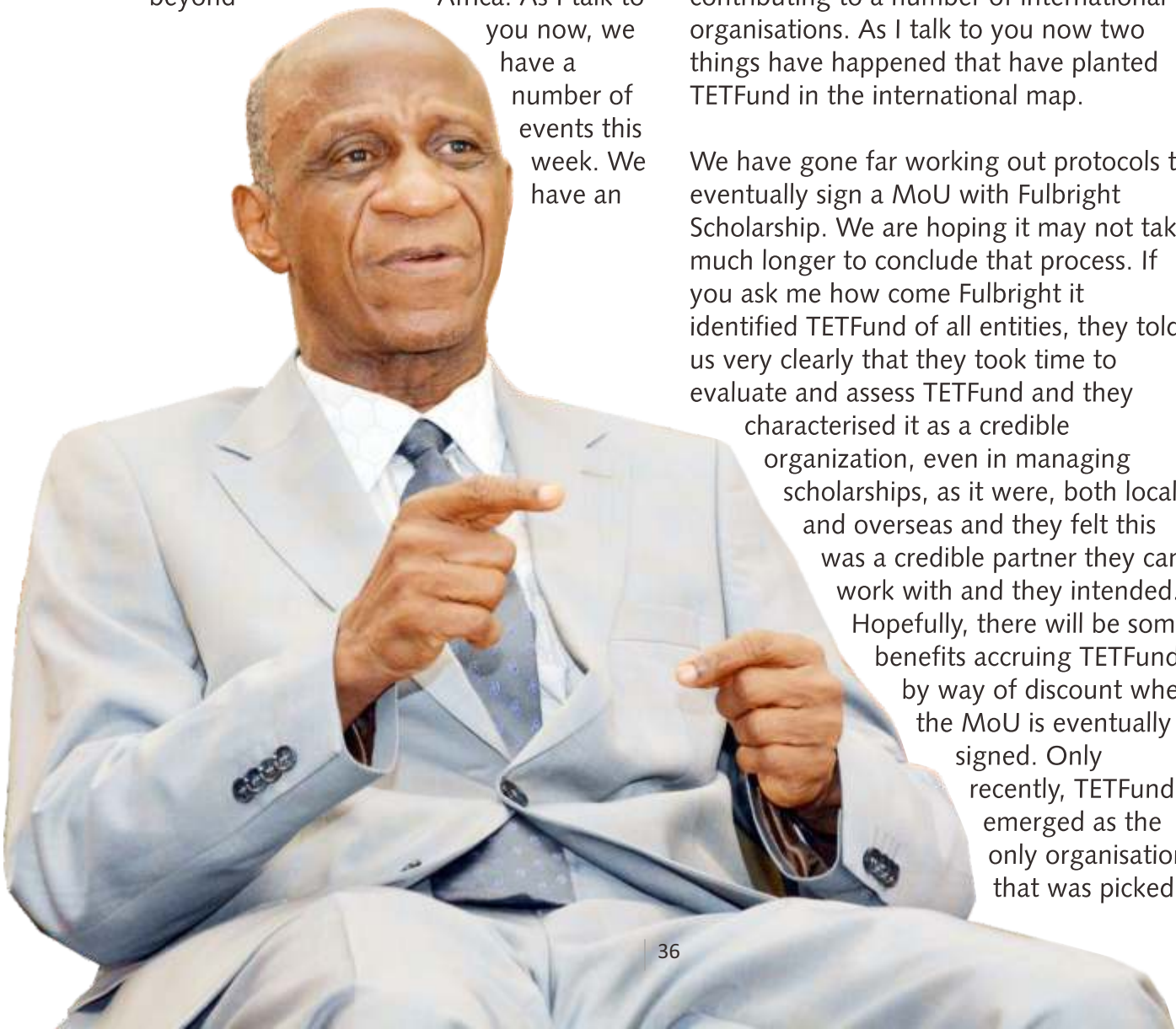
Africa. As I talk to you now, we have a number of events this week. We have an

international agency that is flying into Nigeria from the United States to seek partnership with TETFund. Don't forget that in academic staff training and development, we have scholars funded exclusively by TETFund for PhD and master's degree programmes across the world, there's no part of the world where you don't find them: South, North America, Asia, up to Australia, Malaysia, UK, Germany and of course the United States, as well as in across Africa. That is a reflection of an achievement because the main purpose of academic staff training was to ensure that all those that are employed as lecturers will have minimum qualification or PhD. So, we have gone beyond just those aspects. We have signed a number of MoUs in respect of what I now call the content component and that is contributing to a number of international organisations. As I talk to you now two things have happened that have planted TETFund in the international map.

We have gone far working out protocols to eventually sign a MoU with Fulbright Scholarship. We are hoping it may not take much longer to conclude that process. If you ask me how come Fulbright it identified TETFund of all entities, they told us very clearly that they took time to evaluate and assess TETFund and they

characterised it as a credible organization, even in managing scholarships, as it were, both locally and overseas and they felt this was a credible partner they can work with and they intended.

Hopefully, there will be some benefits accruing TETFund by way of discount when the MoU is eventually signed. Only recently, TETFund emerged as the only organisation that was picked



up by the Commonwealth Science Granting Council. TETFund is the only organisation representing Nigeria that has been recognised as having credible research grant management infrastructure. It is for that reason they identified TETFund and it is joining the Commonwealth Science Granting Council. Funds from that platform will be sent to TETFund and it will manage it on their behalf. It is recognition of the credibility of our operations about research grants because like I said, in Nigeria today TETFund is holding the largest research grant in Nigeria.

You seem to place a premium on Research and Development. Why?

Don't forget that I came from the academic constituency to TETFund and I was privileged to be involved in the negotiation of the emergence of the ETF in 1992. I was also a member of the technical advisory group of TETFund at inception up to the time that I became executive secretary. So, no doubt about it; I've been involved from the conception to the operations of TETFund. While I was in the university system before I came to TETFund it never crossed my mind that I would become ES of TETFund but by the magnanimity of the government, I was appointed in 2014. It

We can produce raw materials, but there is no value addition injected through Agricultural Science and Technology, agric engineering, for post-harvest, for packaging, for long term storage.

was a rare opportunity for me to do what I've been reflecting on. And guess what; my personal concern as an academic and as a professor is that we have not placed research at the appropriate level of record as it ought to be. That it is partly colonial heritage that we are emphasising teaching at the expense of research. When they created the universities, the priority the colonial Masters had was to produce graduates that would fill the public space as bureaucrats to replace them at that time. So, they were supposed to be administrators but you would agree with me that if our economy was to be resilient, our economy was to add value and increasingly get stronger. We need experts in the various disciplines and sectors as Nigerians with degrees, Master's, PhD and professorial levels. So, that means to get graduates that will not just be administrators, but managing the various sectors, you need engineers, you need the architects, you need to be curious, and you can go on and on. Is it the military? The military of these days is the most effective military; it was driven by the latest technology. So pick any area and you will realise that if there is no value addition to what we have from the projects, whether it is the agric sector. For instance, the agric sector has failed to meet up its potential because we have not been injecting enough agro-based technology into that sector and that's it. I am an agric scientist and I can afford to say this with facts. A few years ago, it was very embarrassing.

Anyway, it was said that some yards from Nigeria where we went for export, Nigerians were turned down because they had not met the basic criteria, whether it is World Trade Organization or whatever, for export. We can produce raw materials, but there is no value addition injected through Agricultural Science and Technology, agric engineering, for post-harvest, for

packaging, for long term storage. That is where research comes in and the economy of the 21st century is called knowledge economy. The Chinese of this world, the Japanese of this world, the Singaporeans of this world, not only Western powers like the US, Germany, France and UK; check it out there; it is science-based research that has changed everything. You go to China today, look at infrastructure, a major area that you have appropriately identified as key infrastructure. Is it the bridges, is it the buildings? You know that these are science-based interventions and innovations. So, are we different? It is this thing that bothered me, but let me tell you more, I reflected while in the Nigerian university system that we sit down and we're hardly talking about research. If we discuss research, it is peripheral and only associated with undergraduate projects, with Master's thesis, with PhD thesis. How do I solve the problem out there in the next community near me, in my state, and in my geopolitical zone for the nation or Africa? Look at the challenges; is it climate change today? Look at global warming. In fact, the worst hit if we're not careful is expected to be the least developed countries and Africa will be the worst for it. We're just lucky that COVID-19 was merciful. Maybe we prayed a lot. COVID spared Africa. Of all continents, we were the least affected. I think God must have been very merciful. You better imagine the tragedy if COVID-19 had happened at the rate it happened in the developed countries. But we can't just sit and just be praying and hoping for luck. We must prepare for it. That is why I chose to insist on the institutionalisation of Research and Development (R&D) - applied research for problem solving. That is what took me to that. What is the expenditure of the most competitive nation against the GDP? The least even in Africa has adopted one per cent in investment in R&D. But the most

...we are working towards getting the R&D foundation for Nigeria. If that happens, that is what will define and practicalise the knowledge economy going forward to make our economy more robust, more sustainable, more dependable and more competitive.

competitive nations are in the region of two, three, four, five and even six per cent. That is why we have the R&D committee in TETFund; we are working towards getting the R&D foundation for Nigeria. If that happens, that is what will define and practicalise the knowledge economy going forward to make our economy more robust, more sustainable, more dependable and more competitive.

In September 2020, you inaugurated a standing committee to promote R&D. What is the level of progress of the committee so far?

The last sentence I mentioned is in respect of that. To be more detailed, the TETFund Research and Development committee was exactly one-year-old penultimate Friday when the minister of Education inaugurated it. The calibre of personalities that constitute that committee and their disciplines tell you this is not business as usual. On behalf of Mr President, the Honourable minister of Education

inaugurated that committee. The committee that invited industry research institutes across the sectors was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Education to institutionalize R&D. For too long in academia we have been doing research for the sake of the next promotion. You publish in journals and they clap for you because you have one to three hundred publications.

The more the number of publications we are clapping. Nobody is asking how many outcomes of those publications have solved problems. That is we have the RDSC now. We are asking the question: why can't we engage in problem solving research? That is the R&D; Research and Development, not just for theoretical purposes. The focus is how to apply it to solve problems of space technology, of defence and security, of governance, of medicine, whether it is COVID-19 or cancer, of infrastructure, of ICT that is the facilitator of virtually every other technology, of engineering. In conclusion, I am happy to inform you that that committee recommended the emergence of a National R&D Foundation some months ago and we have gone beyond the level of recommendation. We have put up a draft executive bill committee which was inaugurated by the minister of Education. They have finished their work and very soon you will hear about the next step. We are hoping that if the Foundation comes to being, it will produce the largest R&D funding basket for Nigeria and it will make Nigeria look serious as a nation that wants to recognize and institutionalize the knowledge economy.

We are a nation where people are not ready to pay taxes. What is the level of compliance by companies with the payment of education tax that forms the money available for TETFund's

operations?

I can tell you that even FIRS had been embarrassed by some statistics that came out. We did the taxpayer forum in Lagos recently. Let me give credit to FIRS; over the last two to three years, the collection from FIRS had been gradually increasing. In fact, the bigger problem has been Nigerians' attitude to tax payment. Believe me; we discovered that from some of the figures of banks, they have not been remitting their education tax as it ought to be. I'm not going to name any particular one. It's a little bit disturbing. They have a record and we have been assured that they are ensuring that these changes and we are working hand in hand with the Federal Inland Revenue Service. Let me say that Nigeria has a very poor tax payment attitude, it's very, very sad. Some people will say 'we pay the tax and we don't even guarantee that the money will be useful and used properly'. That should not be an excuse. You play your own part of the budget and leave the rest to those that are responsible for utilising the funds collected from tax. That's my response.

TETFund has joined the Science Granting Council Initiative in Sub Saharan Africa. How would this promote research and development on the African continent?

The advantage here is that we're talking about a science granting council. They are

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a grant awarding platform and I tell you that it goes a long way in strengthening the R&D. The most visible aspects of R&D are the science driven companies; no doubt about that. You just close your eyes and imagine: can any nation do without infrastructure; the roads, the bridges, the buildings, the aviation, and the railway? These are the kinds of infrastructure. You couldn't have done those things without science and technological innovation. It is said that the most competitive economies and nations in the world are those that prioritize science. And so there is no doubt about the science granting council.

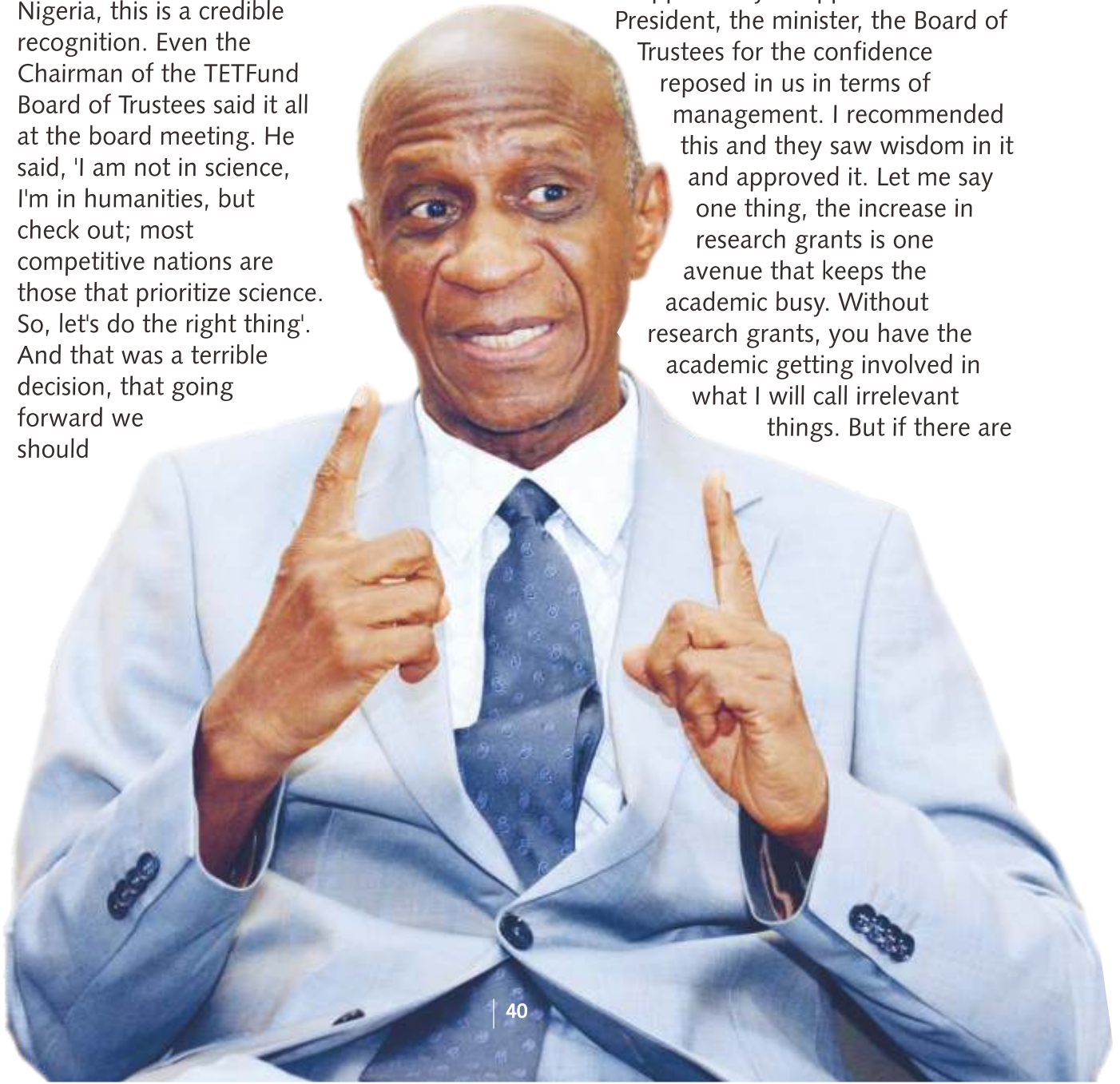
TETFund is the organization that has been so recognized as managing the funds for Nigeria, this is a credible recognition. Even the Chairman of the TETFund Board of Trustees said it all at the board meeting. He said, 'I am not in science, I'm in humanities, but check out; most competitive nations are those that prioritize science. So, let's do the right thing'. And that was a terrible decision, that going forward we should

not sponsor people to go overseas again in non-science areas. It does not make sense. People will laugh at us. Sending somebody overseas to go and do personnel management does not make my listing, we must prioritize. For that reason, we are celebrating that the granting council has picked TETFund for all its grants from now.

The Fund now places much premium on STEM courses or areas. Is that why in 2021 the national research Fund in those areas increased from N7.5 billion to N8.5 billion?

This year, it is 8.5 billion and I want to use this opportunity to appreciate Mr.

President, the minister, the Board of Trustees for the confidence reposed in us in terms of management. I recommended this and they saw wisdom in it and approved it. Let me say one thing, the increase in research grants is one avenue that keeps the academic busy. Without research grants, you have the academic getting involved in what I will call irrelevant things. But if there are



sufficient research grants available, and you are a serious academic, you will be able to access it. I tell you what, you will be so engaged as a person, you will have no time to go and sit and gossip when your colleagues are gossiping about the government. You will be engaged. The other benefit is that you will now bring up and attach students at undergraduate level for projects. If you are a professor and you are supervising younger ones, and they are getting used to the methodology of research, they will become experts in future because you are mentoring them. So the benefits of research grants are multiple. It helps in sourcing more poverty reduction mechanisms in another way.

You recently collaborated with the military and security agencies on research and development. Why the partnership? And how will the country's security system benefit from this partnership?

Thank you very much. I will tell you one thing. You see, we never excluded any sector when Mr President or the minister, on behalf of the president, inaugurated the TETFund R&D Standing Committee. You watched that event at the transport Hilton and you saw a number of military people in uniform. I'm sure you saw that. I think one of the committees is actually chaired by a military person and he was inside. He just retired recently, but we felt he is a very exceptionally gifted person and we should return that kind of person. If you see Modern Warfare, I always say it was during the Gulf War that we civilians started hearing of laser guided bombs that is cutting edge technology. And it is engineering and science being applied in the most precise manner. And in Nigeria in the North East or other parts of the country, insurgents have been attacking our military. Even if it was a few days ago

...we never excluded any sector when Mr President or the minister, on behalf of the president, inaugurated the TETFund R&D Standing Committee.

or a few hours ago you get the news every now and then. They even have the audacity to go and attack barracks. Guess what? They are using a product of technology. Can you see why there is wisdom in TETFund's inclusion of the military? In that committee there is one on governance. We are leaving nobody; everybody is a totality. The R&D committee, the NRDF that we have envisioned is a basket with sections of neatness that reflect the totality of Nigeria. There's nothing that will be left out, including governance and in governance, we are talking about leadership, including political leadership, leadership by Vice Chancellors, by managers of the industry and the private sector We're looking at the totality of that; we must define some parameters that as a nation are indices to guide us with peculiarities based on our peculiar needs as well. So the military is very, very important. We are talking at a time they told us the military had a partnership with a foreign country on some mind detectors and Nigeria has been trying to get the mind detectors, but the radius of cooperation of the mind detectors remains very narrow. They're either 10 to 20 meters and one of those countries they partner with have a capacity of about 50 meters radius of those technologies that we detect and use. Why not? Why are we not going back to the laboratories; into our engineering cells and workshops? So that is

why you cannot exclude the military. You can imagine the military of today inviting technology that wins wars. And if you watch it now, when the Nigerian military now decided, they realized that some of these insurgents were taking them for granted, and the military intensified efforts and you saw it. They said many of those insurgents retreated and they're being forced to go into negotiation when they surrendered.

You received a draft bill for the establishment of the National Research and Development Foundation. Can you give us an update on the bill?

At this point, it is a secret. We will let you know. The Hon minister will take a position in respect of the protocol. The education ministry that houses the natural leaders of research is now taking a step to say, 'we will not just be celebrating publications by the lecturers in our universities, in our

polytechnics or colleges of education. Let us celebrate the outcome, problem solving outcome, and that is why we are inviting the industry because if you do research, for instance, chemical engineering you need to demonstrate or be able to show results that can attract auto technology, petroleum technology. There is a lot that we are not doing here. The natural leaders of research are universities and it's the ministry of education that has it. So it is now facilitating the process of reaching out to other sectors to demonstrate that those that need research are with us but the research has to be in relation with the research institutes and the industry that needs those outcomes for the purpose of relevant sectors in the country.

You were recently given the highest award in the Animal Science profession, among several others. What do these awards mean to you?

Let me say this to you; I could not believe it when they decided to honour me in an unprecedented manner and I was the only one. Honestly, I want to confess to you it still beats my imagination and that is why in my acceptance remark I told them that I'm a baby compared to others in the profession. Well, I don't want to call it a profession but I felt humble that I'm the one that is being solely recognized. Well, they mentioned the reasons; they said I have been exceptionally committed and that I excelled with a number of laurels in science and that makes me deserve it. Well, I wouldn't dwell more than this. I know that I have earned a number of honours; all of them are very competitive. I thank God for it; it energizes me and challenges me to do my best for my profession, to continue to be a good ambassador to my family, to my profession, to my country and to humanity.

Culled from Leadership Newspaper

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Lady Kolawole Laid to Rest Amid Encomiums

Born on March 16, 1954, to late Pa Gabriel Bolarinwa Faremi and Late (Chief) Mrs. Mary Theresa Yetunde Faremi, Late Dr. Kolawole commenced her primary education in 1960 at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School, Mushin and completed it at Our Lady of Apostles' School, Yaba Lagos in 1967.

for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme orientation exercise. However, she completed the programme in July 1980 at the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC). Upon completion of her NYSC programme, she worked as a Land Officer II at LSDPC and later moved to the Lagos State Civil Service Commission in 1982.

The body of the former member representing the South-West Geopolitical Zone in the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Dame (Chief) Dr. Mrs. Anna Morenikeji Kolawole has been laid to rest at her country home in Ibokun, Osun State, amid encomiums from notable dignitaries, religious leaders and members of her community.

Speaking at a funeral service held in her honour in Ibokun Osun State, several speakers, including top clergies and community leaders commended the late BOT member for her exemplary service to community, nation and humanity in general.

She later proceeded to Holy Child College, Ikoyi for her secondary education, from where she obtained her West African School Certificate in 1972.

In pursuit of tertiary education, the late BOT member got admission to Yaba College of Education, Yaba Lagos, where she bagged a diploma in Civil Engineering at the age of 21. She later proceeded to University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Estate Management in 1979.

In August of 1979, Late Dr. (Mrs.) Anna Kolawole proceeded to Plateau State

Late Dr. Kolawole had a successful career at the Lands and Housing Department rising to the position of Director, Lands and Services, before her retirement in 1999.

She later went into politics and held several political positions including being appointed a member of TETFund's BOT, South-West Zone; a position she held between 2013 and 2015.

The late Mrs. Anna Kolawole would be fondly remembered at the Fund for her dedication to service, uprightness and kindliness.

She is survived by her husband and five children.

May her soul rest in peace.

JULY



AMOKO John Kayode
July 1st



OKONUFUA Olufunke
July 1st



AHMAD Ali Muhammad
July 1st



IBRAHIM Abdullah
July 1st



OLAJIDE Babatunde Oladapo
July 4th



ONUKA Esther Motunrayo
July 4th



MAIKUDI Umar Sani
July 4th



ABDULKAREEM Tukur
July 5th

JULY



ADEYINKA Alice Kehinde
July 5th



ERIVWO Ebruphio Inene
July 5th



GOTALA Mustapha Gana
July 7th



NUHU Job
July 7th



AJAYI Bosede Olanike
July 7th



MUSA Salisu
July 8th



DAWODU Peter Omekeshimi
July 9th



GARBA Musa
July 12th

JULY



YAHAYA Nura Garko
July 14th



YOHANNA Habila Optimist
July 14th



NDUKWE Chinyere Chioma
July 15th



UMAR Bukar Yakaka
July 15th



ADEWOLE Maria Geraldine
July 16th



ABDUL Khalil
July 17th



MOHAMMED Garba Sabonsara
July 20th



ILIYA Aisha Ibrahim
July 22nd

JULY



ADAMU Abubakar
July 24th



TAIWO Luqman Adedeji
July 24th



ASIMOLOWO Musibau Abiodun
July 24th



DATTIJO Ahmed Kagara
July 25th



NWANKO Stella Ngozi
July 27th



MAI-ALBASA Danladi Ahmed
July 27th



SAMUEL Julius Adeniyi
July 27th



OKOLO Kalu Okoro
July 27th



KOR Leticia Kpenbeen
July 30th

AUGUST



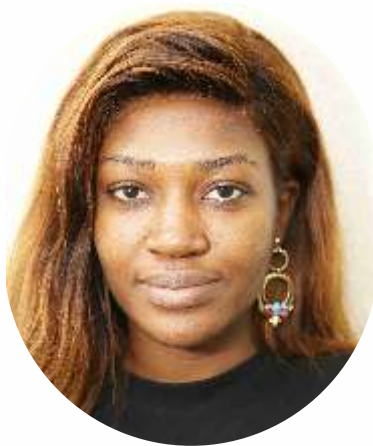
BUHARI Mikailu
August 1st



MAHADI Bello Ibrahim
August 1st



ABDULLAI Adenike Folahanmi
August 2nd



EBIKWO Faith
August 3rd



HARUNA Emmanuel
August 4th



ABDULLAHI Kamila Ango
August 6th



OLUGBODE Funsho Tolulope
August 6th



CHUKWUMERIJE Azuka Juachi
August 7th

AUGUST



CHUKWU Sylvester Ogba
August 8th



PHILIPS David Olusegun
August 8th



MUHAMMED Umar Suru
August 8th



IDUMA Tochukwu Abani
August 9th



OZO Nduka Agbadu
August 10th



TORO Shanum Christopher
August 10th



SANUSI Jaji Sambo
August 12th

AUGUST



CHIKWELU Nkiru Jane lyke
August 16th



MUSA Abdullahi
August 16th



CHUKWU Nnayera Nnaemeka
August 17th



GOGWIM Matilda
August 18th



FAGADE Maimuna
August 20th



NAFI'U Abubakar Babaji
August 22nd



ODEY Augustine
August 25th



OMODELE Vinah Uchenna
August 26th

AUGUST



OGBU Michael
August 25th



DAMILEP Persis Ibrahim
August 26th



WOGU Uchendu Ikechi M.
August 28th



MUSA Tasiu
August 28th



ADAMU Hamman
August 28th



EZENWA Samuel Chinenyeze
August 29th



RUFAI Asutudi
August 30th

SEPTEMBER



ABDULLAHI Grema Hashim
September 1st



SALIHU Girei Bakari
September 5th



ACHIV Mary Mngohol
September 5th



ANGELO Abraham
September 6th



GALLANT Dorcas Wakili
September 8th



JULIUS Oluwafunto Peace
September 12th



ADAMU Maryam Umaru
September 12th



ISHAYA Daniel Mingyi
September 14th

SEPTEMBER



ATTAHIRU Safiya Jega
September 17th



MUHAMMED Bello Sadiq
September 17th



OKAFOR Jennifer
September 17th



KWEKWE Michael
September 19th



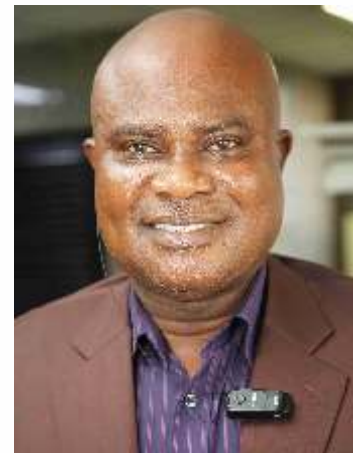
NWOBU Ogoma Evelyn
September 19th



OLORUNFEMI-IRIABIJE Kate
September 22nd



MAMU Hadiza Abubakar
September 22nd



UDOMA Solomon Okon
September 23rd



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