

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFund), PROF. SULEIMAN
ELIAS BOGORO AT THE 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
TETFund HELD AT TRANSCORP HILTON ABUJA ON 16TH
DECEMBER, 2021**

PROTOCOL

It is with utmost pleasure and gratitude that I welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of TETFund's 10th year anniversary celebration.

It is recalled that the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (formally Education Trust Fund, ETF) was originally set up as an agency to intervene in the Education Sector by the Education Tax Act No.7 of 1993 as amended by Act No.40 of 1998. The Act was repealed and replaced with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act of 2011 which refocused the Fund towards the development and rehabilitation of infrastructure alongside research and development in public tertiary institutions (Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education) funded through the 2% Education Tax introduced by the Government on assessable profit of all registered companies in Nigeria.

By the TETFund Act, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is authorized to collect the 2% Education Tax and remit annually to TETFund for allocation and onward disbursement to the Beneficiary Institutions (BIs) in the country.

The mandate of the Fund as contained in the Fund's enabling Act is to administer and disburse the 2% education tax to the federal and state tertiary educational institutions for the provision of essential physical infrastructure for teaching and learning, instructional materials and equipment, research and publication,

academic staff training and development and any other need, which in the opinion of the Board of Trustees is critical and essential for the improvement of quality and maintenance of standard in the higher educational institutions.

The Chairman, Honourable Minister of Education, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, our collective efforts over the past 10 years have not been in vain. TETFund since inception, has recorded tremendous achievements in transforming the landscape of Public Tertiary Education in Nigeria from the education tax collection remitted to the Fund.

Significantly, based on annual allocation to beneficiary institutions over the past 10 years (2011 -2021), TETFund has succeeded significantly in its mandate, through provision of intervention support across its various intervention lines.

The intervention lines include:

- i. Physical Infrastructure/Project Upgrade
- ii. TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff
- iii. Library Development
- iv. ICT Support
- v. Professional and Academic Research Journals
- vi. Post-Doctoral Fellowship
- vii. Academic Manuscript Development
- viii. Conference Attendance
- ix. Teaching Practice
- x. Institution-Based Research (IBR)
- xi. National Research Fund (NRF)/ Mega Research Grants
- xii. Entrepreneurship
- xiii. Equipment fabrication
- xiv. TETFund Project Maintenance
- xv. Advocacy and Publicity

The Fund also provides other forms of special interventions such as:

- i. High Impact Intervention
- ii. Centres of Excellence
- iii. Zonal Intervention
- iv. Disaster Recovery

To execute its programmes along the various intervention lines, the Fund has over the past 10 years created departments and units as deemed necessary to discharge its functions in line with the needs of our beneficiary institutions. Presently, the Fund has 11 Departments namely:

- i. Physical Infrastructure
- ii. Monitoring and Evaluation
- iii. Research and Development / Centres of Excellence
- iv. Academic Staff Training and Development
- v. Education Support Services
- vi. Finance and Investment
- vii. Strategic Planning and Development
- viii. Human Resource and General Administration
- ix. Information and Communication Technology
- x. Executive Secretary's Office (that coordinates Internal Audit, Legal and SERVICOM Units)
- xi. Public Affairs

The Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, TETFund has over the past decade provided massive support to our BIs in Nigeria in the area of construction of physical projects. It is estimated that a total of over 152,838 infrastructural projects have been carried out across these institutions. These projects include lecture theatres, classrooms, hostels, offices, road networks, laboratories and fencing in some institutions in different parts of the country.

In a conscious effort to support the capacity of lecturers in public tertiary educational institutions, the Fund created the Academic Staff Training and Development Programme. To date, the Fund has sponsored close to 30,000 lecturers for master's and Ph.D. programmes in both local and foreign institutions. A breakdown of the sponsorship indicates as follows:

TETFund SPONSORED SCHOLARS FROM 1st JANUARY 2011 TILL 30th NOVEMBER, 2021													
ACADEMIC STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT													
Institution Type	Foreign								Local				Grand Total
	Postdoc		PhD		Masters		Bench Work		PhD		Masters		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
UNIVERSITIES	14	5	2621	459	943	218	475	122	3037	800	1251	266	10211
POLYTECHNICS	3	3	835	84	1205	124	88	16	2116	579	2733	748	8534
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION	5	2	623	81	710	80	48	18	3284	1297	3348	1093	10589
Total	22	10	4079	624	2858	422	611	156	8437	2676	7332	2107	29334
Grand Total	32		4703		3280		767		11,113		9,439		29334

Note: M = Male; F = Female

Still in a bid to boost human capacity in our institutions, the Fund has sponsored over 68,000 academic and non-academic staff of public tertiary institutions to attend local and overseas conferences as indicated in the table below:

TETFund SPONSORED CONFEREES FROM 1st JANUARY 2011 TILL 30th NOVEMBER, 2021									
CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE									
INSTITUTION TYPES	FOREIGN				LOCAL				Grand Total
	Academic Staff		Non-Academic Staff		Academic Staff		Non-Academic Staff		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
UNIVERSITIES	7,120	2,156	1,546	635	3,128	682	8,214	3,483	26,964
POLYTECHNICS	3,069	661	1,034	268	3,961	804	4,829	2,443	17,069
COLLEGES OF EDUCATION	3,040	1,075	733	243	6,619	2,216	6,517	3,174	23,617
Grand Total	13,251	3,899	3,316	1,146	14,088	3,808	19,754	9,150	68,412
Grand Total	17,150		4,462		17,896		28,904		68,412

TETFund has also been providing support for Teaching Practice in federal and state Colleges of Education across the country. So far, the Fund has supported over 71,263 lecturers under its Teachers' Supervision Programme.

Considering the vital role that libraries play in educational institutions, TETFund has also allocated substantial funds to public Federal and state Tertiary Institutions for the acquisition of library books, e-library resources and academic manuscript development to books in order to promote and support research, teaching and learning. So far, the Fund has procured over 2,080,041 books for use in the libraries, 152,844 E-Resources and 380,778 equipment and furniture distributed across public tertiary institutions in Nigeria. I am pleased to inform you that upon recommendation of the Hon. Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved that TETFund complete the

National Library which symbolizes institutional repository of knowledge and research globally.

In 2011, the Fund launched the National Research Fund (NRF) with a seed fund of ₦3Billion as its take-off grant to support cutting edge research in areas of critical national need and development; and in 2015, ₦1Billion was added. Following the approval of TETFund Board of Trustees in 2019, the NRF allocation became annual and N5Billion was approved for that year. In 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari approved additional 50% increase in allocation to the NRF, being N7.5Billion for that year and N8.5Billion in 2021. So far, a total sum of ₦9Billion has been accessed by lecturers to finance their research activities. A total of 457 research projects have been approved across the country, some have been completed while some are still ongoing. Apart from the above intervention mentioned, the Fund also allocates funds on an annual basis to support Academic Research Journals and institution Based Research (IBR) for research projects that are not more than ₦2Million per project across public tertiary institutions. So far, about 2,175 projects have been approved for Institution Based Research and 342 Academic Research Journal projects were undertaken between 2011 and 2021.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is important to note that TETFund has been playing a significant role in Covid 19 Research in the country and drug development in general, in partnership with research institutes in the country. At the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic in Nigeria in 2020, the Fund in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) formed the National Covid-19 Research Consortium (NCRC) with the secretariat located in TETFund office in Abuja. May I use this opportunity to thank the Chairman of

TETFund BOT, Alh. Kashim Ibrahim-Imam for approving the four mega research clusters with funds ranging from N250million to N450million in response to COVID-19 Vaccines and Drug Research, Security/Defense and Dairy R&D in the 2021 budget.

In 2014, I decided to take research to the next level by recommending to the Board of Trustees to approve the establishment of Department of Research and Development/Centers of Excellence in TETFund, which they graciously approved.

Furthermore, we have introduced two new intervention lines within the period; Project Maintenance and ICT Support Interventions. The Project Maintenance Support is to enable the institutions completely renovate dilapidated buildings which have become an eyesore on the campuses while the ICT Support Intervention is for the website upgrade of institutions and for ICT training for both Teaching and Non-Teaching staff to enable them become computer proficient in the ICT world that we now live in.

These funds allocations are aimed at enabling our tertiary institutions become World Class institutions thereby improving on their world ranking, a situation that is of deep concern to Mr. President who is determined to reverse the trend. To achieve this, we intend to continue working closely with regulatory bodies such as the National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) to ensure that quality and standards are improved and sustained.

We are also collaborating effectively with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to ensure that there is improvement in the education tax collections that are made available to the Fund's benefiting institutions. Already this partnership has commenced with annual joint TETFund/ FIRS Interactive Forum to deliberate on areas for improvement of education tax collections. The Fund also introduced the Taxpayers' Forum which is aimed at recognizing and honouring identified taxpayers that have contributed positively and consistently to education tax collection over the years whilst also showcasing TETFund intervention activities over the years to taxpayers and the public.

Recently, the Fund approved the creation of TETFund Scholars Alumni and a compendium of their impacts on national development. The objectives amongst others include:

- i. Uniting and nurturing a bond of fellowship among beneficiaries of TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff and harnessing their potentials for national development;
- ii. To serve as a proof of high value return on investments made by TETFund in the areas of developing world class human capital for Nigeria's public tertiary institutions; and
- iii. To carve a niche for Nigeria in the global knowledge-driven economy by identifying scholars with talents, knowledge and skills that need to be propagated across Nigeria via institutions and agencies other than the scholars' institutions.

The distinguished Chairman of the occasion, Honourable Ministers, distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is pertinent to state that our commitment to our core values of TETFund has among other things, helped us in great measure

to meet our mandate and establish a cordial working relationship with our various stakeholders. We, therefore, remain committed to those core values which include democratic decision-making and management style; respect for human and socio-economic rights of all staff; transparency and accountability; originality, creativity and pursuit of excellence and efficiency; respect for the view-point and interest of government, tax payers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders; belief in wide-scale consultation with stakeholders; promotion of transparency and accountability by the beneficiaries of TETFund among others.

While we remain committed to providing focused and transformative intervention in our public tertiary institutions, the Fund's main ambition for the future includes the following:

- i. To champion the establishment of a National Research and Development Foundation (NR&DF) for Nigeria, in order to make Nigeria's economy more competitive in all spheres through sustainable funding and management;
- ii. Institutionalization of the Triple Helix Model which will culminate in the alliance of the academic, the private sector and the government for a knowledge-driven economy;
- iii. Improving the ranking of universities in particular and the other Beneficiary Institutions in Nigeria through deepening research, building manpower capacity of the academia and enhancing research infrastructural base; and
- iv. To facilitate the buy-in of all stakeholders and especially beneficiary institutions to our ideals for transparency, accountability and promotion of high standards.

As part of our commitment to promoting transparency in our activities, you may wish to recall that the Fund in 2019 set up an independent Technical Advisory Committee on Impact Assessment (TACIA) to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the activities of the Fund for 20 years, starting from when it commenced operations as Education Trust Fund (ETF) in 1999. It is my pleasure to inform you that the report of that committee will be unveiled by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu at this event.

The Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me to use this opportunity to express profound gratitude to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR for his sustained support to the Fund. It must be placed on record that the achievements of TETFund in recent years are mainly attributable to the immense and unwavering support Mr. President has rendered to the Fund since the commencement of his administration.

I also wish to use this medium to express the Fund's gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu for the positive role he has been playing in helping the Fund achieve its mandate. I can confirm here that the Honourable Minister of Education has endorsed almost everything we have recommended to him that are in national interest.

Appreciation also goes to the Board of Trustees of the Fund, past and present; past Executive Secretaries and the entire management and staff, both serving and retired for their positive contributions to making TETFund, the noble brand it has become today.

We express gratitude to all heads of beneficiary institutions, the various unions in the institutions and indeed the entire academic community for the support they have rendered over the past decade.

Mention must also be made of the immense support the media has rendered to the Fund over the past 10 years through the prompt and wide reportage they have provided for TETFund events.

I cannot complete this address without also expressing our profound gratitude to all Education Taxpayers, who have over the years remained committed to contributing their quota towards the development of tertiary education in Nigeria through prompt exercise of their civic responsibilities.

As we mark 10 years of impactful transformation of our public tertiary educational institutions, I wish to reassure you of our resolute commitment to continuously contribute positively to making public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria truly globally competitive and to the overall economic and technological development of the country.

Thank you very much and God bless Nigeria!