

# PANORAMA

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

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**OUR VISION**

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

**OUR GOALS**

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

the sensitivities of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

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

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

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FROM THE

# EDITOR

Hello 2022

**W**e usher in the year trusting that it would be remarkable for the Fund in its journey towards restoration of the nation's public tertiary education sector. Having ended the previous year in grand style with the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TETFund, it is hoped that greater pinnacles would be attained that would call for more celebrations.

Notable event in this publication is the smooth transition in the leadership of the Fund, which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022. The former Executive Secretary, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro whose five-year tenure ended



**ABDULMUMIN B. ONIYANGI**  
Ag. Director, Public Affairs

on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, handed over to his successor, Arc. Sonny Echono in a brief ceremony; a feat unprecedented in the history of the Fund.

Prior to this, was the surprise and elaborate sent forth organized by TETFund to bid farewell to Professor Bogoro who had endeared himself to Management and staff in so many areas as reflected by their eulogies during the ceremony.

Already, the new man at the helm of affairs, Arc. Echono has hit the ground running as he declared his determination during his maiden press conference, not only to tread the path of Professor Bogoro, but to surpass his giant achievements. A flurry of activity had taken place, including a project commissioning at Nasarawa State University Keffi, receiving a high-powered delegation on courtesy call from the Governing Council, Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, Benue State; departmental briefings; a tour of the premises of the agency, among others.

Also a delegation from the National Library of Nigeria led by the National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the organization, professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi, came calling with felicitation and request for TETFund to fast track the construction of the

edifice, which was recently directed by Mr. President to the Fund to complete.

In this first quarter edition, you will also read about the FIRS/TETFund drive to improve on Education Tax collection, in a forum held in all the 6 geo-political zones where stakeholders brainstormed on how to achieve set target. In addition to this are other activities such as capacity building workshop for Heads of Colleges of Education and Polytechnics.

It would also interest the reader to note that the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of TETFund held a meeting recently to deliberate on the progress of its three subcommittees namely; Book Development, Professional Association Journal and Academic Publishing Centres. A total of 42 books would soon be published for public use within the next six month, a major feat and an improvement from previous publications.

The University of Ibadan (UI) in synergy with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has inaugurated the administrative building of the Pan African University Life and Earth Science Institution (PAULESI). These and other breathtaking pictures of various events would be adorning the pages of this edition of the TETFund Panorama to the delight of our readers.

# Change of Baton As Echono Takes Over At TETFund

The new Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has taken over the mantle of leadership amidst rousing welcome from Management and staff of the Fund as well as stakeholders from the Ministry of Education.

Arc. Echono's appointment was announced following the successful expiration of the tenure of his predecessor, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro whose five-year tenure came to an end on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

Speaking at the well-attended handover ceremony held at the Fund's Boardroom, the Executive Secretary commended his predecessor for the huge service rendered to Nigeria through the arrays of impactful projects and interventions carried out in the tertiary education sector under his stewardship.

Echono expressed profound gratitude at his selection from numerous equally qualified candidates by the Minister of Education, following an endorsement by President, Muhammadu Buhari, declaring that



Out-going Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Left), presenting the Hand-Over Note to the In-coming Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono (Right), during the Handover ceremony held at the TETFund Head Office in Abuja.

he would never take this appointment for granted but rather as an opportunity to serve the nation in another capacity.

He promised to build on the achievements of Professor Bogoro and strengthen areas that might need improvement.

Speaking earlier while presenting the handover notes to Arc. Echono,

the outgone Executive Secretary, Professor Bogoro expressed joy that he is handing over the baton to a very experienced successor, which he said gives him confidence that the Fund is in good hands.

Taking pride in handing over to such a worthy candidate, Bogoro implored management and staff of TETFund to give Arc. Echono their full support, thanking them for their

support during his time.

Reeling out his achievements while at the Fund, he added that the Fund has been described as one of the most impactful agencies in recent times owing to a long list of achievements in the areas of Research and Development, increased universities rankings, increased international visibility of tertiary educational institutions; and recognition/selection by the International Science Granting Council among others.

He said, “as I handover, I can reflect over the remarkable achievements of the Fund. In the area of ranking, Nigerian universities have improved, and we must give credit to TETFund”.

He, therefore, enjoined the new Executive Secretary to keep steering the ship and run with the vision, which would ultimately ensure the fulfillment of TETFund’s mandate while engendering overall national

**“We have done so well in physical infrastructure, and we will continue to do so but we also must focus on those we entrusted with the evaluation of our students. We must focus on the type of curriculum that is being taught and the delivery systems”**



Out-going Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (Left), exchanging pleasantries with the In-coming Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono (Right), during the Handover ceremony held at the TETFund Head Office in Abuja.

development that Nigeria is yearning for, through the ivory towers' innovativeness.

The handover ceremony was a moment of excitement as exhibited by both, showing a smooth transition, which was described as unprecedented in the history of the fund.

In his maiden press conference shortly after the handover ceremony, Arc. Echono indicated his readiness to hit the ground running, as he pledged to raise the bar, following in the stead of Prof. Bogoro.

His administration, he pointed out, would focus on curriculum delivery system in schools, an initiative aimed at making the Nigerian graduates more relevant not just in employability but as innovators and wealth creators.

According to Arc. Echono, deploying the tools of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to improve curriculum development with renewed focus on human component on infrastructure is vital for achieving the ideals of knowledge economy.

The new Executive Secretary went on to outline what changes need to be effected in order to take TETFund to a new era of excellence; noting that to transform education in the country, there is a need to focus on the quality of graduates being churned out by tertiary educational institutions.

“This is because the Nigerian curriculum system is theory driven and does not meet the requirements of the industry. As such graduates who join the workforce usually require further

training and retraining to fit into job roles”.

He therefore pledged to forge a partnership between the Academia and Industry to ascertain what actions need to be taken to remedy the situation and permanently solve the skill gap situation.

Arc. Echono went on to state that his tenure would focus on funding entrepreneurial studies and research studies in digital technologies to prepare students for global competitiveness with the end goal of building a knowledge economy and increasing the country's global presence.

“We have done so well in physical infrastructure, and we will continue to do so but we also must focus on those we entrusted with the evaluation of our students. We

**“as I handover, I can reflect over the remarkable achievement of the Fund. In the area of ranking, Nigerian universities have improved, and we must give credit to TETFund”**

must focus on the type of curriculum that is being taught and the delivery systems," he added.

To achieve these laudable goals, he emphasized the need to align with stakeholders of the Fund, namely the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP)

and Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), to push further his vision, saying that they are part and parcel of the educational system and without them, TETFund would not exist.

He went on to say that improving our University ranking is dependent on two major factors which are: the quality of faculties and exchange programs, explaining that these factors couldn't be improved upon with the current instability in the educational system caused by the incessant strikes by ASUU.

“Therefore, if the government can come to an agreement with ASUU, it will go a long way to improving the ranking of our universities and bring the much sort after change we all seek in our educational system”, he stated.

## Staff Celebrate Bogoro as he Bows out Amidst Encomiums



From L-R: Director HR&GA, Barr. Adamu Abubakar, Director, R&D/CE, Dr Salihu Girei Bakari, immediate past Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Director, DESO, Arc. Uchendu Wogu and Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, Arc. Babatunde Olajide, during a valedictory ceremony for Prof. Bogoro.

It was an evening of eulogies for the immediate past Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund),

Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro as staff bid farewell to the visionary leader, whose tenure ended meritoriously.

The event, which held at the beautifully decorated premises of the Fund was fully graced by Management and staff of the Fund,



Mr. Ibrahim Auwal of Finance Department eulogizing the out-going Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during a sent forth ceremony held at the Fund's premises in Abuja.

who gathered for valedictory get together with their boss, who had impacted positively, not only on TETFund, but the Nation at large.

Several speakers expressed deep appreciation to the man who is described as an accomplished academic, for his visionary and humble leadership qualities clearly exhibited during his time at the helm of affairs in the Agency.

Director, Human Resource and General Administration, Barr. Abubakar Adamu described Bogoro as a man whose humility endeared him to many, especially staff.

Though his exit from the Fund would be painful, he thanked Almighty God for preserving his life and to continue to guide and sustain him in all his future endeavor.

He said, "We are all gathered here today to bid farewell to an accomplished academic who has

successfully completed a five-year tenure as the Executive Secretary of this organisation.

"We are pained that we will miss having you as our Executive Secretary, leader, mentor, father and colleague. We are certain that having successfully completed your tenure that saw total transformation of institutions, you are leaving behind a team well motivated and driven work force to ensure that TETFund continues to play its role as one of the leading interventionist agencies in the country."

Also speaking, Director, Finance and Investment, Dr. Mrs. Gloria Olotu, described him as a forthright and passionate leader whose passion for Research and Development has awakened in both the Government, Industry and Academia the need for a paradigm shift towards collaboration to institutionalize R&D in the country.

Also in his remarks, Director,

Research & Development/ Centers of Excellence, Dr. Saliu Girei Bakari was full of praises for Professor Bogoro, saying his landmark achievements in the Fund, the beneficiary institutions and the global community would remain indelible in the sands of time.

He noted that his lone voice which spoke with a lot of passion on the need to embrace knowledge economy through innovative research, earned him the title "Senior Advocate of Research" and has sparked a chain reaction, which has started yielding results in the nation's tertiary institutions.

Other speakers who took turns to express themselves, all had good things to say about the man, whose vision and policy on Institutionalization of Research and Development has grown larger than him, as TETFund is witnessing a lot of requests for collaborations, both within and outside the shores of Nigeria.

The visibly surprised celebrant, Professor Bogoro, in his response gave gratitude to God for giving him the grace to complete his tenure smoothly, and for the Management, the Technical Assistants, and the staff who

**“We are pained that we will miss having you as our executive secretary, leader, mentor, father and colleague. We are certain that having successfully completed your tenure that saw total transformation of beneficiary institutions, you are leaving behind a team well motivated and driven work force to ensure that TETFund continue to play its role as one of the leading interventionist agencies in the country.”**

through their various contributions helped him to achieve his vision.

He commented on some of his achievements and vision, urging the staff of the Fund not to relent in pursuing this vision and mandate of the agency for the greater good of the nation.

“I have made Nigeria proud locally, in other parts of Africa and in diaspora and they will always tell me this whenever they see me. Thank you for your vision and posterity will always remember you. That we never believed Nigeria will be so committed and you are using the TETFund platform correctly.

“When I came in there was no Staff Condition of Service but I pushed and the Board approved all and we made sure that we met all your needs even if it is not 100% of your expectations but at least 70-80%.

“I also made sure that we put a stamp that pushes staff to obtain higher qualifications.

“We also created a Scheme of Service that is very unique to TETFund and I'm very happy that

this can be attributed to me but let me say this that when we were recruiting we made sure that we were fair in making federal character requirements by law. I can proudly say that before the end of my tenure we had personnel that reflected the diversity of Nigeria.

“During my tenure a department was created; the department of Research and Development/Centers of Excellence. I introduced Post-Doctoral Fellowship, the first of its kind in Nigeria; and also TETFund is holding the largest research grants in Nigeria, which is another legacy that I'm leaving behind.

“This is the legacy I'm leaving behind and I'm proud of it. I'm leaving behind staff that are capable of delivering their job with mutual respect. TETFund is rated as the best intervention institution in Nigeria,” he said.

Director, Executive Secretary's Office, Arc. Uchendu Wogu gave the vote of thanks to officially declare the event closed.



Cross section of staff giving standing ovation to the out-going Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during a sent forth ceremony held at the Fund's premises in Abuja.

# EDT Collection: TETFund, FIRS Parley on Way Forward



The representative of the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Mallam Yahaya Yakubu (left), representative of the Executive chairman FIRS, Mr. Aborisade Kehinde (2nd right) and others, during the TETFund/FIRS 2021 Joint Interactive Forum, held in Benin City, Edo State.

**D**etermined to increase the volume of Education Tax collection, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and its ally, the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) have renewed their commitment to meet set target.

The TETFund/FIRS Joint Interactive Forum is an annual event organized to bring stakeholders together to brainstorm and generate ideas and innovative means of improving EDT collections.

The 2021 Edition of the Forum with the theme: “Improving EDT Collection in the post pandemic era”, held in all the six geopolitical zones and had in attendance guests from the Beneficiary Institutions as well as TETFund

scholars. It was also an avenue for TETFund to showcase some of its achievements over the years and to give account to the public on how taxpayers money was spent.

While speaking at the Maiduguri venue of the Forum, the Chairman, TETFund Board of Trustees, Alhaji Kashim Imam commended the Fund for having executed over 10,000 projects in 226 public tertiary institutions across the country in its efforts at transforming the education sector.

The chairman stated that “the Fund targeted N500 billion in 2021 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only over N300 billion was realised. This interactive session will afford us the opportunity to account for what we have been doing with their tax money and put heads together

to see how we can improve the Education Development Tax”.

Imam further stated that within the last year, the Fund allocated N1 billion each to 12 universities as Centres of Excellence, while 6 Federal Polytechnics and 6 Colleges of Educations also got N1 billion each, spread across the six geopolitical zones.

In his presentation, the Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Alhaji Muhammad Nami said the service had last June, deployed new technology that gives opportunity for taxpayers to remit their taxes from the comfort of their homes and get their tax certificate instantly.

Represented by Alhaji Kabir Abba, he stated that “In 2020 to 2021 we

recorded low tax generation due to COVID-19 pandemic but I want to assure TETFund that with the deployment of PRO MAX technology in June last year which gives opportunity to taxpayers to pay their taxes at the comfort of their rooms/offices and get tax certificates, as well as block leakages, tax collection will increase which in turn means increased TETFund revenue”.

Nami disclosed that the Service has also enabled the Intelligence and Strategic Data Department to block leakages in tax collection and to monitor tax payments. He further added that the Service also partners with the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Customs Service among other agencies to improve tax collections.

Also speaking at the event was the Vice Chancellor, University of Maiduguri, Prof. Aliyu Shugaba who was represented by the DVC Administration, Prof. Laminu Mohammed.

Prof Mohammed stated that UNIMAID have always benefitted from the Fund right from the ETF days and he repeated the now popular refrain of “if not for TETFund, what would have been of the tertiary institutions in the country”. He praised the efforts of the Fund, adding that TETFund has been a stabilizing factor in the education sector.

In the same vein, the TETFund BoT member representing the South-East Zone, Chief Emeka Ufearoh, speaking at the Enugu Forum, described FIRS as a dependable partner in the huge project of salvaging the education sector in Nigeria.

Chief Ufearoh explained that the forum was a perfect platform to hold extensive discussions on the way forward in EDT collection.

In his remark, the Vice Chancellor Enugu State University of Science

**“If not for TETFund, what would have been of the tertiary institutions in the country”.**

and Technology (ESUT), Professor Charles Eze expressed profound appreciation to FIRS, who through their collections, TETFund is providing a lifeline to all the beneficiary institutions.

According to Professor Eze, 'we appreciate FIRS for the good job delivered to us through TETFund. If they haven't been up and doing, we won't be here talking about our success stories. Without TETFund, I don't know what would have become the fate of tertiary institutions. In all parts of the country, in virtually all the institutions, apart from the foundational infrastructures, the rest were provided by the Fund”.

“ESUT as one of the beneficiaries can't even begin to enumerate the many things we have benefited from TETFund. I urge you not to relent. I really thank the founding fathers of the Fund, and we can't take your efforts for granted. The success stories we talk about today is not a fairy tale. All these are on ground and can be seen.



Cross Section of participants at the TETFund/FIRS 2021 Joint Interactive Forum, held in Benin City, Edo State.

# TAG Records Successes within its Three Sub-Committees



Former ES TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, addressing members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of TETFund at a meeting held in Abuja.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of TETFund held a meeting recently to deliberate on the progress of its three sub-committees namely; Book Development, Professional Association Journal and Academic Publishing Centers.

The immediate past Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro speaking while drawing the meeting to a close, re-emphasized that his vision was to prioritize research in Nigeria.

He said before TETFund started awarding research grants, there were virtually none in tertiary institutions, and that never in the history of Nigeria has research become a central element that is being acknowledged and will soon change the narratives.

He went further to enumerate some of the well-known success stories that have resulted from TETFund grants which include the World Health Organization (WHO) certification given to three Nigerian Universities to proceed to the next

stage of Covid-19 vaccine development as well as the development of an electric vehicle by the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede.

Bogoro pledged more support to TAG including capacity building for grant writing skills; adding that government is excited about what the group is doing confident that it will deliver its mandate and help Nigeria rise from despondency to prosperity.

Also speaking at the meeting, Professor John Ilah, convener of the Book Development Sub-committee of TAG said the objective of the first meeting of 2022 was to appraise progress of TAG and address some issues that are overlapping from the previous year.

He however added that the expectation of his committee in the two-day meeting is to be able to take delivery of certain concrete manuscripts that have been completed and are now going to press. He added that without the support of Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, TAG wouldn't have been able to do what it is doing and that this is one of the strategic interventions that will affect the content of the knowledge production in Nigeria in many years to come.



From 4th Right: Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, Prof. Charles Oguguua Awo (3rd right) and other members of TAG and some Staff of TETFund in a group photograph at the end of a meeting.

The convener for the Academic Publishing Centers (APCs) sub-committee of TAG, Professor Saminu Ibrahim also alluded to the contribution of his sub-committee stating that for the meeting, one area of discussion was the achievements recorded by the University of Lagos APC.

He stated the need to monitor and evaluate the APCs and for this, they required tools during visits that would be carried out in the future.

Meanwhile the Chairman of TAG, Professor Charles Ogugua Aworh commended the former Executive Secretary stating that TAG has received every support necessary and this has made it possible for the group to achieve what it has so far, which he pointed out is quite substantial.

He said this is the third year of TAG and it has made huge progress, despite the challenges that were faced with COVID-19, adding that

although the group could not meet physically, meetings were held virtually.

He went further to say that under Book Development in 2014, TAG produced 20 books that were well received by the tertiary education system and at the moment it has close to forty manuscripts that are in the process of being developed into books. “So in another six months, there is no doubt that TAG would have published close to 40 high quality books for the Nigerian tertiary education system and this will be a major impact”, Professor Aworh explained.

“It is worthy of note that for the first time, TAG is publishing books produced by a group of Nigerian professors and not just by individuals,” the Chairman said.

He added that TAG plans to produce 42 basic text books and is working with Nigerian professors both in and outside the country as

well as professionals in the industry to develop these books.

**“...well-known success stories that have resulted from TETFund grants which include the WHO certification given to three Nigerian Universities to proceed to the next stage of Covid-19 vaccine development as well as the development of an electric vehicle by the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede.”**

# TETFund Holds Two-Day Capacity Building Workshop for Public Polytechnics



Former Chairman BoT (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam and the immediate past Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro exchanging pleasantries, during the TETFund Capacity Building Workshop on Skills and Entrepreneurship for Public Polytechnics across the Northern Zone, held at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja.

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has held a two-day capacity building workshop for public polytechnics in the Northern Zone of the country with the theme "Improving Skills Development in Nigerian Polytechnics for Economic Growth, Entrepreneurship and Social Inclusion".

Speaking at the event held in Abuja, the immediate past Executive Secretary of TETFund Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro stated that the capacity building program is a support aimed at strengthening Public Beneficiary Polytechnics to fulfil their mandates of providing the needed manpower that will put the nation on the path to economic growth and development.

He pointed out that to survive, nations have found themselves struggling with diverse plan and strategies in all spheres of life and have devoted a lot of resources to the promotion of learning and education in its formal context.

Prof. Bogoro stated that Polytechnic lecturers must acquire relevant teaching skills to be able to impart the required industry-tailored knowledge and skills to their students. He also advocated for adequate supervision of students to provide the needed learning support.

"The student must be monitored and supervised accordingly by

**'The student must be monitored and supervised accordingly by their institutions to enable them understand the work environment, through carefully selected and supervised industrial training programs.'**

their institutions to enable them understand the work environment, through carefully selected and supervised industrial training programs.

"The acquisition of skills and entrepreneurship development in polytechnics cannot be underestimated because skills are needed in all critical sectors of the economy, technology and non-technology alike.

"Acquisition of skills prepares individuals with the capabilities to compete globally for gainful employment and helps solve several challenges in many areas thus creating a brighter future for the nation and individuals", he said.

The Executive Secretary also noted that the glaring gap in indigenous technological development for national growth is one of the many areas Nigerian polytechnics need to address.

"We can draw our lessons from the Asian tigers, who have greatly developed their local technology not only for national development but also for export. We cannot afford to continuously and wholly rely on importation of technology for national development, knowing fully well its shortcomings and deficiencies," he added.

According to Prof. Bogoro "our polytechnics must rise to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge economy by reinventing themselves to

providing the needed skill gaps for sustainable technological growth". He emphasized that it is due to the gaps in tertiary education landscape, that TETFund was established by the Nigerian government to intervene specifically in public universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education across the country.

"So far, the Fund has continued to provide training and equipment to its beneficiary polytechnics and will continue to do so to assist them deliver on their mandate. There is no better time than now for polytechnics in the country to take up the challenge"

**"We can draw our lessons from the Asian tigers, who have greatly developed their local technology not only for national development but also for export. We cannot afford to continuously and wholly rely on importation of technology for national development, knowing fully well its shortcomings and deficiencies,"**

Bogoro said TETFund will continue to support workshop of this nature so as to provide avenues that promote the betterment of the education system in Nigeria for the development of the country.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Prof. Idris Bugaje, said the workshop is a wake-up call to reposition the educational system.

He stated that the workshop was to address skills training under the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and improve the skills content of technical education in polytechnics.

"We know that in the polytechnics, entrepreneurship programmes is better than that of the universities, but something is missing. The training is conducted haphazardly and the content is low. There is need to look into the NSQF to see how entrepreneurship training in the various entrepreneurship development centres of polytechnics can be conducted under the NSQF", he said.

The NBTE boss encouraged polytechnics and universities to facilitate teaching of practical entrepreneurship skills under the NSQF to breed independence and promote self-actualisation and utilisation of one's own skill.

According to Bugaje, the NSQF has different modules and there is



Group Photograph of Dignitaries at the the TETFund Capacity Building Workshop on Skills and Entrepreneurship for Public Polytechnics across the Northern Zone. held at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja.

need to train students on different modules and give them certification of those modules so that when they graduate, they will have an additional qualification to lean on.

He emphasized the need for an update of curriculum in industries in order to adapt to the modern standard, as a lot of industry machineries are outdated and obsolete.

He blamed Nigeria's deficiency in skilled labour as the reasons why thousands of potential jobs are lost to foreign companies mainly in Asia; and all these are as a result of the underperformance of our polytechnics.

Industrialisation, Bugaje disclosed, is taking a new

**“Acquisition of skills prepares individuals with the capabilities to compete globally for gainful employment and helps solve several challenges in many areas thus creating a brighter future for the nation and individuals”**

dimension, including mechatronics, automation and use of artificial intelligence in manufacturing which requires specialised skills. Therefore, Nigerian polytechnics must be re-engineered to deliver those skills, if not so, they would end up producing graduates that will be irrelevant to the industry.

Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, TETFund, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam in his remarks urged polytechnics to be innovative and creative, adding that the country could not absorb the numbers of graduates in Nigeria. He, therefore, pointed out the need to train the students on skills acquisition so they could go into other creative ventures after graduation.

# TETFund to Pilot the Creation of a National Research Repository



Former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (8th), in a Group photograph with participants during the TETFund Thesis Digitization Project, Organised by the ICT Department, TETFund.

In furtherance of its drive to institutionalize Research and Development in Nigeria by fostering synergy between researchers across the country, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) through its Department of Education Support Services organized a one-day Sensitization workshop on Theses Digitization for Directors of ICT, Librarians and Desk Officers of its beneficiary institutions across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

The workshop which held between 19<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 in Abuja, had in attendance participants drawn from Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

In his opening remarks, Director Education Support Services, Engr. Mustapha Gotala stated the need for conversion of research output to digital form to ensure they are

visible online.

This, he explained, was the only means of improving the global ranking of institutions in the country, adding that there is need for massive digitization to accelerate the ongoing digitization efforts and to have a centralized repository.

The Director stated that the workshop was sequel to virtual interactions and a readiness assessment conducted across 221 TETFund Beneficiary Institutions which showed that 58% of the 221 beneficiary institutions have 100% of their theses un-digitized (in paper form) while only 7% of that number have all their theses digitized.

Speaking at the function, the former Executive Secretary, TETFund Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro said Nigerian Universities

have been trailing behind with regards to ICT facilitation of teaching and learning and even more worrisome with regards to repository documentation especially in the Public Tertiary Institutions.

He said for this reason TETFund decided to pilot the creation of a National Repository from which research outputs across the country can be accessed remotely. He said the benefits are enormous ranging from deterring plagiarism and other forms of malpractice associated with documentation in order to improve the quality of academic research output across beneficiary institutions.

Prof. Bogoro noted that with the unprecedented support of President Muhammadu Buhari and the commitment of the Honorable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu as well as synergy

with partners such as the National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) the paradigm shift agenda of TETFund has resulted in the elevation of Research Development and Innovation to the top of national discourse which he said must be followed with concrete action.

He said the workshop has commenced the first of several sensitization events on the digitization of Theses of Beneficiary Institutions with a view to seeding our National Research

Repository containing academic work produced by the academic community.

Also in the programme was a discussion panel which centered around Handling Storage of Digitized Contents; challenges with digitization of academic output; ongoing digitization activities in tertiary institutions and the ideal outcomes of digitization. Panelists were drawn from the various institutions with a recurring member in the person of Prof. Yakubu Ochefo, the Secretary General of the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities.

There were also presentations from representatives of the Tertiary Institutions Central Academic Repository (TICAR) and the Eagle Scan Plagiarism Software which was developed by the Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities and to be adopted across the country.

In the end, the participants thanked the Management of TETFund, Eagle Scan and TICAR for creating the platform for interaction on the subject matter, acknowledging they have benefitted a great deal from it and look forward to the implementation of the Project.

## TETFund Commissions N250 Million PAULESI Building at UI

Education, they say, plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of any country. Recognizing this fundamental philosophy, the University of Ibadan (UI) one of Nigeria's foremost citadels of learning in synergy with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has inaugurated the administrative building of the Pan African University of Life and Earth Science Institution (PAULESI).



Former Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro (2nd left) commissioning the PAULESI Center while the Vice-Chancellor, Pan African University, Ibadan, Prof. Kayode O. Adebowale (left) and others look on

Funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the 250 million Naira (USD 602,401) awarded to PAULESI by TETFund, the building is

to create a stronger higher education space in Africa in areas of ICT, technical and vocational training, in nurturing of new ideas

and continuous injection of highly skilled human resources that meet the developmental needs of the continent.

In her welcome speech, the Director of PAULESI, Prof. Esther Akinlabi, said that owning a building by PAULESI is worthy of celebration because it would help in developing postgraduate programmes in Science, Technology, Innovation, and governance in enhancing the mobility of students and academic staff among African universities to improve teaching and collaborative research.

Speaking, the representative of the Commissioner of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of the African Union Commission, Hambani Mashelani said the African continent is youthful, with more than 70percent of its population aged between 15 and 35 years. This he said, push the demand for

education higher, and challenges the provision of access to relevant and quality education, that will enable the continent to benefit from this immense demographic dividend.

Mashelani noted that Africa has a high demand for well trained engineers, scientists, innovators, artists and entrepreneurs among others, to drive and sustain its socio-economic development agenda.

In his remarks, the former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof Suleiman Elias Bogoro stated that education is a critical enabler for addressing the human capital development needs of the continent. He added that TETFund

through its intervention lines is poised to attaining a paradigm shift in research and development in a bid to unite the industry, government and the academia to achieve a more competitive knowledge-based economy.

Bogoro lauded the efforts of PAULESI and University of Ibadan in creating an enabling environment for students across Africa to access relevant and quality education in Nigeria.

The PAULESI administrative building would among other things house the innovation incubation hub awarded by the African Development Bank (AFDB) to Co-Creation Hub.

## TETFund Challenges Polytechnics, Colleges of Education on Skills Development

Immediate past Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro has called on Polytechnics and Colleges of Education to improve their output in academic innovation in an effort to position the country on the path of rapid development.

Prof. Bogoro made the call at a capacity building workshop for heads of selected institutions and staff of TETFund Centres of Excellence held in Abuja recently.



Former Chairman BoT (TETFund), Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim-Imam addressing participants at the Capacity Building Workshop for heads of selected institutions and staff of TETFund Centres of Excellence, held in Abuja.



From L-R: Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Prof. Idris Muhammad Bugaje, exchanging pleasantries with the Former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, during the Capacity Building Workshop for Heads of selected institutions and staff of TETFund Centres of Excellence held in Abuja.

He said the two-day event was organised to ensure proper understanding of the concept of the Centres by those in charge of them. Bogoro further urged Centres of Excellence in the Polytechnics to focus on skills development, entrepreneurship and start-ups.

He also lamented that most of the low and medium skilled jobs in the country are being handled by people from Francophone countries, which he noted does not portray Nigeria in good light.

“In determining the thematic area of focus for the Centres of Excellence, we sought the input advice and guidance of NBTE and NCCE,” he said.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Professor Idris Muhammad Bugaje commended Bogoro for his

passion for institutionalisation of Research and Development.

‘I am already seeing a nexus between the university Centres of Excellence and our polytechnic Centres of Excellence. A nexus that will facilitate the delivery of Research in Universities becoming innovations. Every country in the world is taking pride in contributing something to the global village. I am happy with this structure the Executive Secretary has created,

with the Centres of Excellence’.

The event also had in attendance experts from World Bank sponsored African Centres of Excellence. Some of the recently established TETFund Centres of Excellence in the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education include Federal Polytechnics Nassarawa, Bauchi and Kaduna; Federal College of Education, Adamawa, and Ondo among others.



Cross section of participants at the registration point, during TETFund Capacity Building Workshop on Entrepreneurship Training for Public Polytechnic Sector in the entire Northern part of Nigeria, held at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja.

# TETFund Capacity Building Workshop for Public Universities held at the NAF Conference Centre in Abuja.

## Theme: Requirements for Strengthening Nigerian Universities for Higher Global Ranking and Knowledge Economy.



# Visit of the Newly Appointed Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Vuan Sell to TETFund



### TETFund Capacity Building Workshop on Skills and Entrepreneurship for Public Polytechnics across the Northern Zone, held at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja.



## TETFund Academic Staff Training and Development Monitoring Team Visit to the University of Sussex, Brighton United Kingdom



# 2021 TETFund / FIRS Interactive Forum

## Kanu Centre



## Maiduguri Centre



### Benin Centre



### Jos Centre



### Lagos Centre



### Enugu Centre



## TETFund Team visit to Pan African University Life Earth Institute (PAULESI) Centre, Ibadan.



## Visit of Excos of Committee of Provost of Colleges of Education to TETFund Head Office, Abuja



# One-Day Sensitization Workshop on These Digitization for Directors of ICT, Librarians and Desk Officers of TETFund

## NORTH CENTRAL



## SOUTH WEST



NORTH EAST



NORTH WEST



SOUTH EAST



SOUTH SOUTH



## Study Tour of TETFund Sponsored Delegates to the Agricultural Research Center (ARC) Giza, Arab Republic of Egypt



## TETFund Scholars in Brazil



# TETFund Pledges Speedy Completion of National Library



L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, Chief Executive of NLN, Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi and others during the courtesy visit.

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sunny Echono has pledged to fast-track the completion of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) Headquarters located in Abuja.

He made this statement when he received the Management team of the National Library led by Librarian and Chief Executive of NLN, Professor Chinwe Veronica Anunobi at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja.

In a brief speech, Mrs. Chinwe thanked the Executive Secretary for the warm reception, congratulating him on his new appointment and extolling his virtues as a seasoned public servant with a heart for service. She described Arc. Echono as the perfect fit for the position he is occupying, stating that she had worked with him for a reasonable length of time and as such can testify to his competencies as a leader and man of integrity.

She commended his dedication to the completion of the National

Library project which was originally commissioned in 2006 but yet to be completed due to inadequate funding. Prof. Chinwe narrated how Arc. Echono made a case for the completion of the library during his time as Permanent Secretary describing him as a man with strong commitment to transforming the education sector.

Responding, Arc. Echono expressed profound gratitude to the National Library team for the visit. He reiterated his commitment to the completion of the National Library pointing out that a library is

in the center of all learning and is an edifice meant to showcase a people's value for education. He therefore pledged to ensure that the library is completed following approval of the Board for the release of funds.

The Executive Secretary revealed that though a first tranche had been released, further appraisal is required to ascertain the exact measure of funds needed for the completion of the project taking into consideration, the current economic state in the country.



Some TETFund Management Staff

# TETFund Commissions N1.6 Billion Worth of Projects in NSUK



L-R: Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, commissioning one of the completed projects at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, with him is the Vice-Chancellor NSUK, Prof. Suleiman Bala-Mohammed and the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, during the commissioning exercise at NSUK.

The Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Arc. Sonny Echono has commissioned projects worth N1.6 billion at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK).

The projects commissioned included an ICT Complex, Faculty of Environmental Sciences Building, Faculty of Education Building, Laboratory Complex and offices.

Speaking at the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Suleiman Bala-

Mohammed expressed appreciation to TETFund and the Ministry of Education for supporting the institution with standard structures.

“If you go round the campus, majority of the structures was constructed by TETFund over the years. So, on behalf of the management and staff of the university, I want to express my profound gratitude to TETFund”.

Bala-Mohammed said that the ICT complex was sponsored by TETFund through the 2013/2016

intervention at the cost of N315 million, while the Faculty of Environmental Sciences also sponsored by TETFund cost a total of N395 million. The ICT complex has the capacity for more than 1,000 computer workstations, offices, and conveniences.

According to the Vice Chancellor, the Laboratory Complex and Offices are also sponsored by TETFund from its 2018/2019 special intervention at N541 million.

The vice-chancellor said the



From R-L: Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, commissioning one of completed projects, with him is the Vice-Chancellor NSUK, Prof. Suleiman Bala-Mohammed and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, during the commissioning exercise at NSUK.

Faculty of Education Building cost N355 million and was sponsored by Federal Government's NEEDS Assessment Intervention.

Also present at the event are the Executive Secretary of NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed,

Nasarawa State Governor, represented by his deputy, Dr Emmanuel Akabe, among others.

## TETFund Commits to Double-Track Approach for its Centres of Excellence

The Executive Secretary of TETFund Arc. Sonny Echono has revealed plans to develop sufficient capacity for TETFund Centres of Excellence to move up to the next layer of the African Centres of Excellence through TETFund interventions.

He spoke while receiving in audience, a delegation from the Governing Council, Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, led by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council, Mal. Abdullahi Alkali Abba, who paid him a courtesy visit at the TETFund

headquarters, Abuja.

Echono called on Nigerian public institutions to prioritize the development of specific programs to support their human capital component in their TETFund allocated interventions.

He said, "I'm aware that NUC is also working on a similar plan. They want to be able to help the university administrators in the management of university environments, and also to seek staff to partner with various institutes; and for us to be able to sponsor such interactions to the

extent of our obligations to such scholars".

The Executive Secretary assured the visiting team of the Fund's commitment to investing in human capital development, adding that the Center for Infectious Diseases is an area that resonates with the President and therefore should be promoted for consideration in the African Centres of Excellence programme partnership even as robust support strategies are being put in place by TETFund.

"First we've discovered that new institutions tend to have an

adverse effect on even the existing older federal public universities, because they tend to take a lot from them and they focus to move these institutions to achieve their standing, to improve their career prospects and so on. And then evidently the older institutions suffer.

But if we also want to start an institution to set the right standards, and for them to maintain those standards, we need to invest in human capital development”.

Echono commended the visiting team for their timeliness and readiness to work hand in hand with the Fund and assured them of TETFund's support in furthering their goals to move their institution up to world class standard.

“If you are planning to partner with an international body or agency and you want to see certain things in place in your institutions before requesting their own assistance, we will prioritise that as we can give

you edge for that intervention. This is something we are looking at and are willing to do. So on behalf of the management and the staff, I want to deeply appreciate you and thank you most sincerely. We are very certain of your high standards and that you will maintain those standards”

Speaking earlier, the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the university, Mal. Abdullahi Alkali Abba highlighted some pressing issues of the Federal University of Health Sciences to the Executive Secretary, urging him to consider the unique nature of the university as the first federally owned Health Science institution.

Mal Abdullahi further drew attention to the severe needs of the University for TETFund special interventions. Some of the proposed areas of support pushed forward by the visiting team included increase in infrastructure, construction of

road network, construction of perimeter fence, and manpower development which will subsequently result in rapid development of staff.

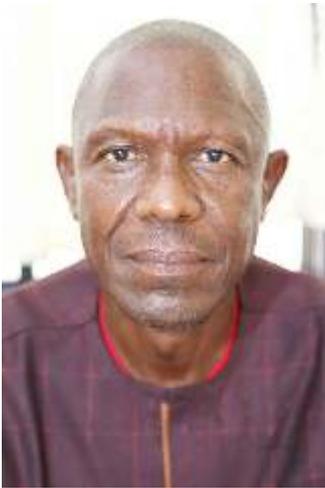
The Pro Chancellor hailed Echono as having a record of excellent service in his previous role as Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, calling his recent appointment as the Executive Secretary of TETFund a 'Divine reward' and proof of his commendable management skills.

“The governing council wishes to use this opportunity to thank you immensely for all your support to the university; it being the first federally owned University of Health Sciences. You have been one of the architects that actually pushed to get the university off its feet and we thank you very much for that. We thank you sincerely in facilitating the interventions we have had from TETFund of 1 Billion Naira which we are putting to great use”, he said.



Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono (Middle) in a group photograph with delegates from the Governing Council, Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, led by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council, Mal. Abdullahi Alkali Abba (5th Left) to TETFund Head Office in Abuja.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
**JANUARY**



**AL-HASSAN Gambo**  
1st January



**IKWUKA Izuchukwu Chijioko**  
1st January



**ABDULHAMEED Hamza**  
1st January



**LUKKA Seth**  
1st January



**ILIYASU Zainab Salisu Ubeida**  
1st January



**ISA Sabo**  
1st January



**ABDULLAHI Umar**  
2nd January



**IBRAHIM Aminu Anas**  
5th January



**YAHAYA Kodabu**  
6th January

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
JANUARY



**DANMADAMI Zainab M.**  
9th January



**ALIYU Mustapha**  
10th January



**JEGA Bashir Attahiru**  
10th January



**ALI Sani Alhaji**  
11th January



**ADEDAYO Veronica Onize**  
11th January



**EZECHUKWU Ebele Immaculata**  
13th January



**SAMU Lauya Habila**  
14th January



**OGUNBAYODE Mobolaji Richard**  
14th January



**OLATUNJI Juliana Olupeju**  
18th January

**STAFF BIRTHDAYS**  
**JANUARY**



**ABDULLAHI Garba**  
19th January



**IDUMA Anita Ogechi**  
19th January



**SHAIBU Dauda**  
19th January



**AHMED Abdulrazaq**  
20th January



**DAHIRU Abdullahi**  
20th January



**OPARAH Joseph Ikenna**  
23rd January



**SABO Amodu Ochoche**  
24th January



**ALI Umar**  
25th January



**MOHAMMED Abdulwasiiu**  
25th January

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
JANUARY



**UDE Nonyelum O.**  
28th January



**ABDULRAHMAN D. Ibrahim**  
28th January



**SAMUEL Atte**  
29th January



**IDAKWO Momoh**  
30th January



**GBUM Maryam Seember**  
30th January

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
**FEBRUARY**



**ABDULLAHI Aliyu Musa**  
1st February



**SAHEED Surajudeen Olayinka**  
1st February



**MUHAMMAD Sadiq Juli**  
2nd February



**FWANGKWAL Tahite Nancy**  
3rd February



**OMINIABOHS Samuel Tosin**  
4th February



**SAMAILA Saratu S.**  
6th February



**BELLO Abosede Abiola Afolabi**  
8th February



**ABDULLAHI Idris A.**  
9th February



**PHILLIPS Ajayi Adebayo**  
10th February

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
**FEBRUARY**



**OLABIYA Saheed Babatunde**  
11th February



**BASHAR Yahaya**  
12th February



**GIDADO Kabir Umar**  
12th February



**MUKTAR Musa Yar'adua**  
14th February



**SALISU Yakubu**  
15th February



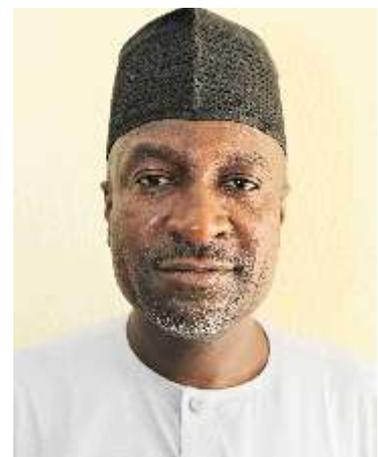
**MUHAMMAD Auwal**  
16th February



**HASSAN Aliyu Buhari**  
16th February



**DAVID-NKPE Nia Udego**  
17th February



**AL-HUSSAIN Mohammad**  
17th February

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
**FEBRUARY**



**HAMISU Auwal**  
17th February



**OLANRELE Morolake Olayemi**  
19th February



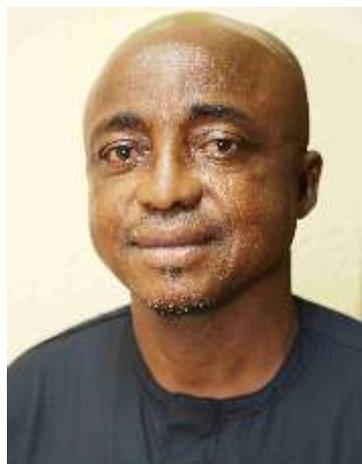
**IBRAHIM Sani Ibrahim**  
22nd February



**JOSHUA Jerry**  
24th February



**ASANIYI Kehinde O.**  
25th February



**BABALOLA Oluseye Alao**  
25th February



**BAWAN ALLAH Junaidu**  
27th February

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
MARCH



**SALIHU Aliyu Tarfa**  
2nd March



**AWOSHIRI Augustine**  
2nd March



**BABA Muhammad**  
2nd March



**RABIU Mijinyawa**  
2nd March



**ERUOGI Chuks Jubilant**  
3rd March



**ONUH Adbulkadir**  
3rd March



**MUSA Muhammad Musa**  
7th March

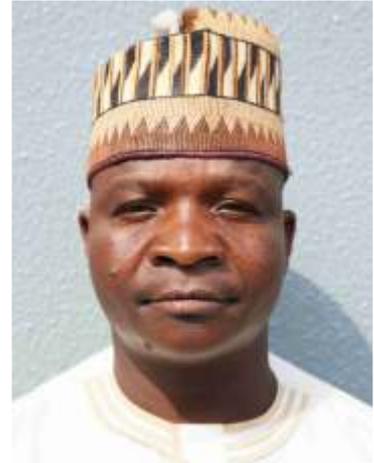
STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
**MARCH**



**KASHIM Fatima**  
8th March



**AMAIKWU Ifunanya Uzoamaka**  
9th March



**YAKUBU Nuhu**  
10th March



**GONI Bulama**  
13th March



**EGHOVE Zeal Ogheneov**  
14th March



**AJANWACHUKWU Nkata**  
15th March



**MISBAHU Mohammed**  
15th March

STAFF BIRTHDAYS  
MARCH



**UMAR Abubakar A.**  
15th March



**AHMED Kabir Argunugu**  
16th March



**ELLIOT Ebei Gift**  
16th March



**IBRAHIM Auwal**  
17th March



**ODO Joseph Uchenna**  
19th March



**IMONI Samson**  
19th March



**AHMAD Iya Abubakar**  
20th March

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

MARCH



**YUSUF Sunusi Sani**  
23rd March



**OYEWOLE Modupe Abiola**  
23rd March



**DIMKA Yilshang Yakubu**  
24th March



**HASSAN Sale**  
25th March



**OKOYE Emmanuel Chigozie**  
28th March



**AJAYI Gbenga Olusola**  
29th March



**OKEBUGWU Ijeoma Onyinye**  
31st March



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-  [Tetfund.gov.ng](http://Tetfund.gov.ng)