

4th Quarter
13th October 2022 - January 2023



PANORAMA

MAGAZINE

TETFund

COMMISSIONING
BY PMB
CONTINUES

TETFund, INNOV8 HUB
PARTNER FOR
INNOVATIVE
RESEARCH IN
NIGERIA



COVID VACCINE
UNVEILED
IN SOKOTO

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Editor's Note

Editor



Year 2022 was an eventful one for TETFund with a myriad of activities embarked upon by the Fund to continually make public tertiary educational institution in the country globally competitive and ultimately contributing towards the economic and technological development of Nigeria.

Under the watch of the Executive Secretary, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono, TETFund has recorded remarkable achievements in every of its intervention lines, including Book Development, Academic Staff Training and Development, Research and Development, Physical Infrastructure and so on.

Living true to his promise to build on the achievements of his predecessor, Arc. Echono has further strengthened the Fund, introducing innovative policies and rejigging existing guidelines with a view to accelerating efficiency and attainment of the Agency's mandate.

The last quarter of 2022 and some part of the first quarter in 2023 witnessed series of ground — breaking events undertaken by the Fund that have continued to generate accolades and cheers from stakeholders and lovers of quality education across Nigeria.

A total of 50 books, written by Nigerian academics in diverse fields and fully sponsored by TETFund were unveiled to the public with the aim of ending the predominance of foreign academic materials in Nigeria and addressing the dearth of locally published books in the country. We believe this will make an interesting read.

Another equally exciting event is that Research and Development has also continued to take its pride of place with the Federal Government approving over N4.7 billion for 219 TETFund Research Grant under the National Research Fund (NRF) programme for the 2021 grant cycle. Recall that NRF was introduced by the Fund to encourage cutting-edge research relevant to proffering solution to the developmental needs of Nigeria.

The Panorama also brings you the partnership between the Fund and Innov8 Hub, with the launch of the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) programme which creates opportunities for Nigerian academics and researchers with innovative ideas to transform such ideas into prototypes for commercialization.

Still on strengthening partnerships, but this time on boosting Education Tax (EDT) remittances, TETFund organized the 2022 Annual TETFund/FIRS Interactive Forum in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Enugu.

In the same vein, the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) has expressed its desire to work with the Fund to improve the taxation system in Nigeria.

There were harvests of completed projects as stakeholders continued to commission iconic projects worth billions of Naira undertaken by various beneficiary institutions and sponsored by TETFund. Some of these institutions included College of Education Akwanga, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Airforce Institute of Technology (AFIT), The Polytechnic Kaduna and the Kaduna State University.

Awards from several quarters continued to pour in for the Fund and Executive Secretary, notable amongst which came from the Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN), who decorated him with 'Epic Public Servant Medal' in recognition of his meritorious service in Public Service. In the same stead, TETFund bagged the ICT Gold Merit Award by Nigeria Computer Society, as well as Education Development Award by the Adamawa State University, Mubi, in recognition of its role in development of tertiary education in Nigeria.

We also bring you the first ever TETFund Staff Merit Award organized in line with Management's desire to reward hard work and dedication to service among staff. It was a huge success as awardees were selected based on merit as acknowledged by many. All these and more, accompanied with pictorial pages have been packaged for the delight of our highly esteemed readers.

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2022 Intervention Year: Appraising TETFund's Sterling Performance

Words by Amos Anetekhai

The Year 2022 could be described as an eventful year for the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), as the Fund not only witnessed an unprecedented and seamless change from one leadership to another, but also recorded a sterling performance in its intervention activities.

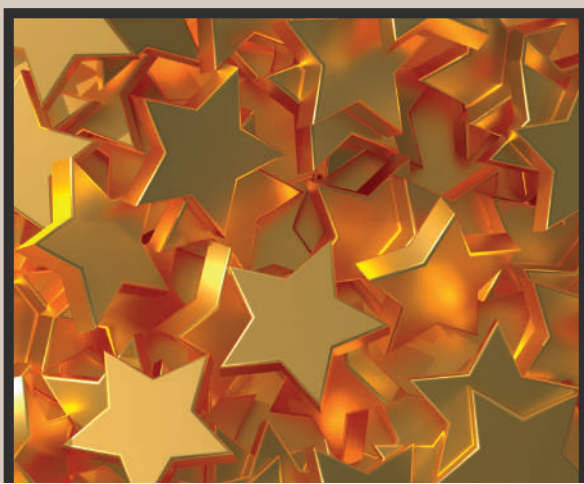
It would be recalled that on assumption of office in March 2022, Executive Secretary of the Fund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono expressed determination to consolidate on the Fund's successes and far-reaching measures, including innovative policies and reforms were introduced to improve efficiency.

Part of the reforms introduced included the need for curriculum review, skill acquisition/entrepreneurship, advancement of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as deepening Research, Development and Innovation.

Others are provision of funds for capacity building of lecturers to equip them with requisite skills for Entrepreneurial and Research Studies in Digital Technologies. This is intended to prepare Nigerian students for global competitiveness with the end goal of building a knowledge economy and increasing the country's global presence.

As part of efforts towards ensuring effective service delivery by the Fund, the Executive Secretary undertook a holistic review of the operating procedure of the Fund, including full operationalization of all Zonal Offices and delegation of functions and set targets for departments and standing committees.

Suffice to say that these innovative reforms, entrenchment of accountability and transparency as well as exemplary leadership provided over the past year culminated in multiple successes recorded by the Fund in 2022.



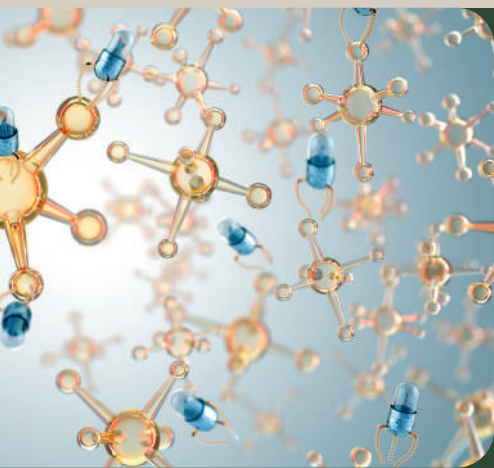
What Happened?

The Fund kick-started intervention activities for 2022 with the distribution of allocation letters to Beneficiary Institutions across the country. Each university got an allocation of N642, – 848,138.00; N396,780,086.00 to each Polytechnic, while Colleges of Education got N447,758,804.00 each; and an unprecedented sum of N212,468,995,945.03 was disbursed to the three tiers of institutions as at October 2022.

The Fund also witnessed an increase in Education Tax (EDT) based on the new rate of 2.5% with a collection of over N320 billion as at November 2022.

In Research, the Fund approved the award of 219 Research Grants to successful participants under the 2021 National Research Fund (NRF) Grant cycle at the sum of over N4.7 billion to embark on cutting-edge research for national development.

Partnerships agreements were also reached with notable institutions such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), African Union (AU), University of Sussex, European Union (EU) among others.



These were all aimed at articulating new strategies to reinforce existing efforts of the government at improving the standard of education in Nigeria.

Also in 2022, the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) programme, initiated in partnership with Innov8 Hub commenced with the Opening Event by the Hon. Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Goodluck Nanah Opiah. The initiative is a year-long programme aimed at providing unique opportunities for academics and researchers in Nigeria to transform ideas into market-driven solutions, including the development and fabrication of prototypes.

On COVID 19, efforts by the Fund through the Mega Research Grant Intervention to consolidate problem-solving research yielded positive results as the Vaccine Production Cluster comprising five research institutes developed a COVID-19 vaccine for pre-clinical trial.



In 2022, TETFund's Academic Staff Training and Development programme continued to be an integral part of the Fund's mandate with the sponsorship of additional 4,102 academic staff for Ph.D and Master's degrees. While 560 received foreign scholarships, 3,542 were sponsored locally with a disbursement of over N22 billion as at November 2022, making a total of over 36,000 sponsored since the inception of the programme. During the same period, over N599 million was disbursed for Conference Attendance, comprising 138 foreign and 1,306 local conferences, while sponsorship of 14,950 Teaching Practice supervisions was at over N1 billion.

The determination of TETFund to promote indigenous textbooks also continued to yield positive results with the unveiling of 10 TETFund-sponsored higher education textbooks written by Nigerian scholars at the Federal Ministry of Education Abuja by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu. The manuscripts were published into books at a cost of N52,452,972.00. Publication of 50 additional manuscripts have been completed and presented to the public in January 2023.





In the area of physical infrastructure intervention, the Fund sponsored an estimated number of 58,500 projects in 2022 with a disbursement of over N108 billion for Annual and Special Intervention Projects.

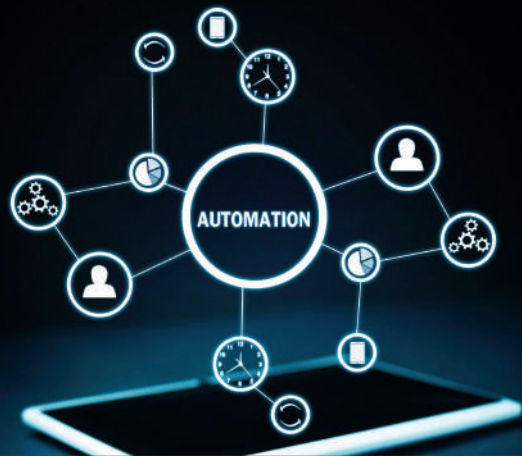
It is important to note that as a result of the Project Management reforms introduced to reduce delivery time of projects, prevent cost escalation and improve general efficiency in the discharge of the Fund's mandate, there is an unprecedented improvement in turn-around time between receipts of proposals from Beneficiary Institutions and recommendations for approval, which has translated into increased access to intervention projects, timely disbursement of funds and timely completion of projects.



The above measures account for the number of physical projects commissioned in 2022 by notable personalities across the country such as Nasarawa State University, Keffi commissioned by the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari; Federal College of Education, Obudu by the Honourable Minister of State for Power, Hon. Goddy Jedy-Agba and Federal College of Education, Kano by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Jibrin Barau.

Others are Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi by the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Tertiary Education and Services, Hon. Aminu Suleiman and College of Education, Akwanga by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Hon. Muhammed Abdullahi.





In the area of ICT, there was an automation of the Fund's intervention lines and Beneficiary Institutions can now make submissions online for Physical Infrastructure, Library Development, AST&D and other interventions.

The Fund also constituted a Digitization Project Steering and Coordinating Committee with the mandate to create a national research bank to serve as repository for academic works. These repositories will help generate a large collation of local institutional research into Digital Repositories in tune with international standards in public tertiary institutions across the country; in addition to exposing and appreciating intellectual activities of Nigerians by the international communities across the globe.

Also in ICT, there was provision of ICT infrastructure, such as fixed mobile internet access and solar power to all Beneficiary Institutions, while over 19,000 teaching and non-teaching staff were trained using the ICDL digital literacy curriculum.



To enhance the capacity of Beneficiary Institutions in the delivery of their mandates, the Fund organized a number of capacity building workshops for public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education including a workshop on improving procurement processes organized in conjunction with the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

The Fund also successfully hosted the 2022 TETFund/FIRS Interactive Forum in Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt where useful discussions were held on improvement of EDT collection, especially with respect to expanding the tax net of companies eligible for payment of EDT.





In recognition of the numerous strides of TETFund, particularly in 2022, several awards were bestowed on the Fund and the Executive Secretary.

These awards include the National Honours Award of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) bestowed on the Executive Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono and his predecessor, Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro; Fellowship of the Nigerian Association for Educational Administration and Planning (NAEP) awarded to Arc. Echono barely 24 hours after the National Award; Prestigious Medal of Honour Award by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); Life Achievement Award by African Housing Awards and Honorary Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Building among others.

The Fund was also awarded the ICT Gold Merit Award by the Nigerian Computer Society in recognition of its contributions to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the country.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNVEILS 50 ADDITIONAL TETFund-SPONSORED TEXTBOOKS

Words by Habiba Rabi

"I am confident that the new textbooks will put an end to the predominance of foreign academic materials in the country's educational institutions." - Minister of Education Malam Adamu Adamu

In continuation of efforts by the Federal Government to address the paucity of locally published textbooks in the country, the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu has again unveiled 50 new books published by Nigerian authors under the Book Development Programme of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Performing the public presentation of the books at the Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja recently, the Minister who was represented by the Minister of State for Education, Rt. Hon. Goodluck Nanah Opiah noted that over time, tertiary educational institutions in the country had become dependent on books published outside Nigeria with attendant consequences such as unfavourable foreign exchange rate.

He, therefore, expressed confidence that the new textbooks will put an end to the predominance of foreign academic materials in the country's educational institutions.

However, the Minister expressed concern that the quality of most academic publications in the country left much to be desired.

"It is equally worrisome that the quality of most academic publications in our country leaves much to be desired. It is, therefore, expected that nourishing the culture of quality authorship and the production of indigenous books will not only ensure the availability of relevant books in the diverse subject areas taking cognizance of our local environment and sensitivities, but will also safeguard national pride and reduce the demand for foreign exchange," he said.

Malam Adamu also charged TETFund and authors to produce books in the Nation's indigenous languages in line with the recently approved National Language policy.

"I also charge TETFund and the academia to go beyond publishing in English language to promoting authorship in our local languages in line with the recently approved National Language policy," he said.



The highlight of the event

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono commended the TETFund Technical Advisory Group on Book Development (TAG), authors and others who contributed to the publication of the books.

Arc. Echono announced that the books would be distributed to libraries of tertiary institutions at no cost and only subsequent publications would be paid for by students and others.

While stating that the Fund has set a minimum target of 50 textbooks yearly for publication, he added that digital copies of the works would be made available.

SPECIAL REPORT



“We are digitizing our thesis and records and through that ecosystem, you are going to have digital copies of these materials. All we are going to do now is to ensure we protect the authors’ intellectual property rights and once that is done, they are going to be available on the internet,” he said.

Also speaking, the Chairman of TAG, Prof. Charles Aworh noted that 40 of the 50 textbooks were published by Academic Publishing Centres established by TETFund.

“We are witnessing today the realization of an important goal of the TETFund Higher Education Book Development Intervention Project which is reviving academic publishing in Nigeria’s tertiary education institutions.

“I should add that among the 50 titles of academic books being presented to the public today, three are from PhD theses of our young academics that have been converted to books. Twelve are multi-authored basic or fundamental texts commissioned by TETFund and written by some of our best intellectuals in the academia, private sector and government agencies”.

“These books, though international in outlook, are written bearing in mind our peculiarities and local needs and with practical examples that reflect familiar realities and experiences that our students can identify with. Forty-three of such books in diverse subject areas, identified by a needs assessment, ranging from History, Women and Gender, Literature in English, Communication and Media, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Software Engineering, Materials Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Surgery. Agricultural Economics, Political Science, Nigerian Legal System, Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation Sciences to Pension Systems, Actuarial Science, Modelling and Simulation, Bioinformatics and Artificial Intelligence have been commissioned by TETFund and twenty-nine have so far been completed,” he said.

Present at the event were the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Mr. David Adejo; Executive Secretary, National Commission for Colleges of Education, Prof. Paulinus Okwelle; President, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke; President Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Dr. Anderson Ezeibe; President, Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), Dr. Smart Olugbeko; Heads of Beneficiary Institutions of TETFund and other key players in the Education Sector.

“We are digitizing our thesis and records and through that ecosystem, you are going to have digital copies of these materials. All we are going to do now is to ensure we protect the authors’ intellectual property rights and once that is done, they are going to be available on the internet,” - Arc S.T. Echono



TETFund HOLDS MAIDEN STAFF MERIT AWARD CEREMONY

WORDS BY Muazzam Garo

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has held the maiden edition of its Staff Merit Award Ceremony to recognize and reward members of staff who displayed exemplary qualities and dedication to duties in 2022.

The maiden edition which was held in December 2022 saw 33 staff of the Fund emerge as winners in the Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.

Speaking at the event, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono expressed sincere appreciation to all staff for their commitment to duties, stating that the positive reputation the Fund has earned over the years was attributable to them.

"I want to sincerely appreciate each and every staff of this organization. Our good reputation in this country is due to the commitment, sacrifice and the efforts made by the staff of this organization.

"I also want to salute your resilience and the sacrifices you made throughout the year because as we all know, this has been a very difficult year for us as we saw a drop in our revenue for as much as 30 percent.

"The issue of recognizing staff who have performed at a level above their peers is a very important tool in motivating staff for better performance. I congratulate the winners and also encourage those who did not win today not to lose hope; rather you should increase the level of your commitment and dedication and hopefully next year you will make it," he said.

In his remarks, Director Human Resources and General Administration (HR&GA) who also served as Chairman of the 2022 Merit Award Committee, Barr. Adamu Abubakar expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary for initiating the award, being the first of its kind in the history of TETFund.

"I stand here on behalf of every staff of the Fund to appreciate the Executive Secretary. He observed that the Fund lacked an institutionalized platform to reward staff for exceptional service, hence he constituted a committee to make nominations from various departments and zonal offices, heads of department, units and zonal coordinators for the staff merit award which will be held annually going forward.

"The purpose of this event is to recognize and reward staff who have displayed exemplary leadership qualities, dedication to duties, selfless service and loyalty to the organization," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, Mr. Amos Anetekhai of the Department of Public Affairs and Atnadu Onyinye of Strategic Planning and Development department expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary and Management of the Fund for the initiative.

Anetekhai said: "On behalf of the recipients of the 2022 TETFund Staff Merit Award and indeed all staff of the Fund, I would like to express sincere appreciation to the Executive Secretary and Management Staff of the Fund for this noble initiative".

"We have no doubt that initiatives like this would serve as morale booster to staff and we use this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the services of the Fund," he added.



LIST OF CATEGORIES AND WINNERS

| A. GOLD CATEGORY | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| S/N | Names | Department/Unit |
| 1. | Conrad Okoli | R&D/Centres of Excellence |
| 2. | Amos Anetekhai | Public Affairs |
| 3. | Ilyasu Bagwai | Finance and investment |
| 4. | Ichenwo Nsirim | Human Resources and General Administration |
| 5. | Nkem Menkiti | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| 6. | Abubakar Hassan | Internal Audit Unit |
| 7. | Umar Gwadabe | Strategic Planning and Development |
| 8. | Abdulsamad Ibrahim | Legal Unit |
| B. SILVER CATEGORY | | |
| 1. | Abdullahi Sanusi | North-West Zonal Office |
| 2. | Azuka Chukwumerije | Directorate of Executive Secretary's Office |
| 3. | Chima Ikwuegbu | Information and Communication Technology |
| 4. | Bawa Garba | Physical Infrastructure |
| 5. | Nura Mijinyawa | Academic Staff Training and Development |
| 6. | Risikat Ahmed | Human Resources and General Administration |
| 7. | Atnadu Onyinye | Strategic Planning and Development |
| 8. | Hajara Butswat | Legal Unit |
| 9. | Adewa Peter | Education Support Services |
| 10. | Muazu Ahmadu | Information and Communication Technology |
| 11. | Victoria Agi | Directorate of Executive Secretary's Office |
| C. BRONZE CATEGORY | | |
| 1. | Andrew Adama | North-Central Zone |
| 2. | Fahd Ahmed | Internal Audit Unit |
| 3. | Chukwu Nnaemeka | South-East Zonal Office |
| 4. | Eric Osang | South-South Zonal Office |
| 5. | Modupe Abiola | R&D/Centres of Excellence |
| 6. | Agboola Solomon | South-West Zonal Office |
| 7. | Abdullahi Mohammed | North-East Zonal Office |
| 8. | Muhammed Bappah | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| 9. | Abubakar Abdullahi | North-West Zonal Office |
| 10. | Sabo Garba | Physical Infrastructure |
| 11. | Ibrahim Mohammed | Directorate of Executive Secretary's Office |
| 12. | Ibrahim Adam | Academic Staff Training and Development |
| 13. | Juliana Olatunji | SERVICOM |
| 14. | Mustapha Jauro | Public Affairs |

There is Misconception on Mandate of TETFund - ASUU



Words by Amos Anetekhai

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has decried the misconception surrounding the mandate of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), stating that the Fund was established as an interventionist agency and not a replacement for statutory funding of tertiary education in Nigeria.

Immediate past President of the union, Prof. Biodun Ogunyemi made this known while speaking as a special guest at the 2023 Management Retreat of TETFund held in Lagos recently.

Delivering a lecture titled "Challenges of Tertiary Education in Nigeria and Role of TETFund as an Interventionist Agency", Prof. Ogunyemi recalled the deplorable state of tertiary education in the country decades ago, as well as the advocacy and agitations by staff unions for the restoration of quality tertiary education which led to the signing of an agreement between the Federal Government and ASUU in September 1992 to establish the Education Tax Fund (ETF), now TETFund.

The former ASUU President described TETFund as a "Game Changer" noting that the Fund has since 2011 provided intervention in the areas of infrastructure and equipment, with thousands of projects spread across various tertiary institutions in the country.

He also acknowledged other areas of TETFund support which include Special and High Impact Interventions, Library, ICT, Project Maintenance, Entrepreneurship Education, Equipment Fabrication, Academic Staff Training and Development, Research amongst others.

While stating that critical remarks by ASUU are not meant to undermine TETFund's increasing impact in tertiary institutions, but to convey feedback for improvements, Prof. Ogunyemi called for greater transparency and accountability, as well as increased collaboration with critical interest groups such as staff unions.

He stated that with more engagements between TETFund and ASUU, the leadership of the union would be better equipped to defend and project the activities and programmes of the Fund.

In his remarks, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono expressed appreciation to the leadership of ASUU and other staff unions for the support they have provided the Fund over the years.

He also expressed the Fund's commitment towards establishing closer working relationships with critical stakeholders such as ASUU.

"As an intervention agency of government saddled with the responsibility of rebuilding and supporting the nation's tertiary institutions, we are all aware of the enormous responsibility and task before us, especially when we consider the importance of tertiary education in nation building.

"The Fund has been entrusted with the task of rehabilitating the decay in physical infrastructure and other areas of the nation's public tertiary institutions specified in the Act. It is for this reason that the various intervention lines of the Fund were established.

"Over the years, the Fund has not only supported the rehabilitation and provision of physical infrastructure but has also supported the content components of our beneficiary institutions. This, no doubt, has transformed the nation's tertiary institutions and raised the standard and quality of teaching and learning over time.

"Despite the progress that has been achieved, a lot needs to be done and the Fund has not relented, but will continuously strive to improve its services and operations," he said.





A SHORT STORY

“THE GIRL AND THE MAGPIE”

By Oluwatosin Ishowo

A slave girl feeds her young master with a golden spoon, until one day misfortune strikes and the spoon went missing. Her master along with the villagers accused her of stealing, for no one else was capable of stealing except a slave who wants to buy her way into freedom.

A beggar on the street jumped in to save the girl, pleading to the villagers to hear the girl's side of the story but no one listened.

The villagers along with their head ordered the slave girl to be stoned to death until she stops breathing. The villagers enjoyed it, after all, she was a slave girl and insignificant.

A week later, a magpie flew back with the golden spoon to the shock of the villagers; the spoon was dropped exactly where the bird picked it initially.

The villagers realized their errors and decided to build a statue for the girl to honour her memory. The beggar who witnessed the ceremony laughed very loudly and sarcastically while walking away; the villagers were forced to stop and ask what was so funny to him as they are mourning and regretting what they did. The beggar murmured “you should have listened to both sides, no matter how difficult, regret is not repentance for believing a single story”.

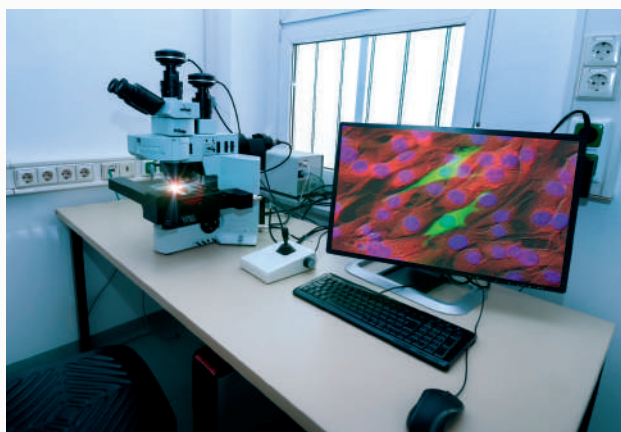
“Believing a single story makes mockery of morality, justice and collective prosperity”, said the villagers who agreed with the beggar, but it cost losing a soul to learn the lesson, a soul of an innocent person!

Avoid passing judgement based on a single story!



Federal Government Approves Over N4.7 Billion for 219 TETFund Research Proposals

Words by Amos Anetekhai



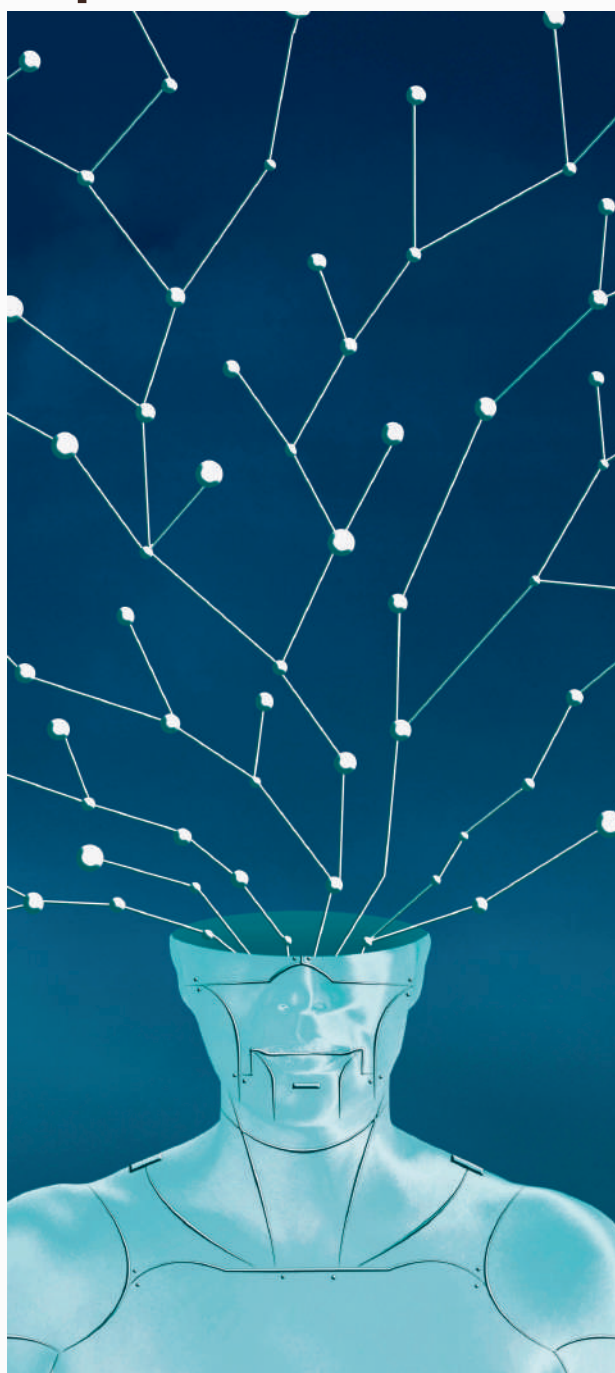
The Federal Government has approved the sum of N4,736,782,352.21 for the award of 219 research grants to successful participants under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) National Research Fund (NRF) programme for the 2021 grant cycle.

This followed the report of the TETFund National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC) which recommended the funding of the 219 research proposals after a rigorous screening exercise which commenced with the receipt of 4,810 Concept Notes from prospective applicants in November 2021.

A breakdown of the approval indicates that the sum of N3,066,156,844.61 was approved for the Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) thematic group, N806,381,998.00 for Humanities and Social Science (HSS) while Cross Cutting (CC) received N864,242,509.60, with individual grants ranging from N4.5 million to over N41 million.

Some of the approved research works tailored towards enhancing national development include Molecular epidemiology of recurrent cholera outbreaks in Nigeria and pre-clinical evaluation of indigenous medicinal plants for its management; Effective High Throughput Phenotyping and Artificial Pollination for Improved Yield in Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) with Autonomous Drone and Investigating Nigerian medicinal plants as sources of lead compounds for development of chemotherapeutic interventions for uterine fibroid and Production of Cartridge made from Hydrochar for the Treatment of Textile and Tannery Wastewater in Nigeria: "Emerging Technology for Sustainable Water Purification using Biomass Waste; all under the Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) thematic group.

Projects under the Cross Cutting thematic group include Design and Fabrication of Efficient Solar Energy Storage System for Electricity Generation to Rural Communities; Adaptation of Conventional Septic Tank to Bio-digester for Sustainable Energy Generation and Viable Economy for Households Use in Nigeria and Development of Polymer-soilcrete Blocks and Pozzolanic Cement Concrete for Integrated and Sustainable Mass Housing in Nigeria, amongst others.



Approved under the Humanities and Social Sciences thematic group are Development and evaluation of phytoestrogenic trans-dermal nanogel for the management of menopausal symptoms and associated diseases; Fabrication and Characterization of New Glass Series from Rice Husk and Bismuth-Tin Ores for Application in Radiation Shielding and Green Pathway for Barite Production towards Decarbonisation of Mining Sector in Nigeria, amongst others.

The National Research Fund (NRF) Grant was introduced to encourage cutting-edge research which explore research areas relevant to societal needs of Nigeria such as power and energy, health, security, agriculture, employment and wealth creation etc.



TETFund Bags ICT Gold Merit Award by Nigeria Computer Society

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has been awarded the ICT Gold Merit Award by the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) in recognition of the Fund's contributions to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the country, such as the Thesis Digitization Project embarked upon by the agency for the creation of institutional research repositories.

The award was presented to the Fund at the 2022 National Information Technology Merit Award (NITMA) ceremony held recently in Lagos.

Speaking at the ceremony, the President of NCS, Professor Adesina Sodiya stated that NITMA is an event organized by the Society to recognize and celebrate excellence and commitment in Information Technology (IT) profession.

Professor Sodiya further stated that the advocacy efforts of NCS, which is geared towards achieving sustainable development in the country will be incomplete without recognition of excellence and exceptional professionals who have made significant impact in the industry; adding that those conferred with different categories of awards were carefully selected.

He assured that NCS as the national platform for the advancement of Information Technology practice in Nigeria will continue to strive for greater heights.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono expressed profound appreciation to NCS for the award, stating that the Fund remains committed to supporting the development of ICT across public tertiary educational institutions in the country.

Arc. Echono described ICT as one of the fastest growing sectors in the country and proof of this is the steady growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last seven years which is tied to ICT development.

The Executive Secretary also emphasized that ICT is the hub of the youth and therefore could be used as a tool to expose young people to educational opportunities and other opportunities for growth internationally.

Words by Teni Abiru

He added that with Nigeria having one of the largest growing youth populations in the world, there is room for national development through technological advancement if, there is a will to invest in the development of the sector.

Arc Echono reiterated the Fund's commitment to the development of ICT through investment in research programmes geared towards technological advancement and ultimately national development. This, he said, will be carried out through many streams such as providing ICT training for teaching and non-teaching staff of public tertiary educational institutions under the Academic Staff Training and Development and ICT Intervention programmes for increased digital literacy and overall efficiency.

In his message at the event, the Director-General, National Information and Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, who spoke through Video Conferencing platform, stated that Information Technology has contributed immensely to the development of the country through various government policy implementations, adding that Nigeria could achieve economic prosperity and become a developed nation through investment in ICT development.

Other awardees at the event included Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State who won IT Governor of the Year.



CITN/TETFund Strengthen Ties to Improve Taxation

The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) are working on a collaboration aimed at improving the taxation system in Nigeria.

The collaboration became imperative as TETFund draws its intervention funds from Education Tax (EDT) collections while CITN is the regulatory professional body in the field of taxation in Nigeria.

Speaking when he led a delegation from the Institute on a courtesy visit to the Fund, President of CITN, Mr. Adeshina Adedayo stated that a closer collaboration between the two bodies would enhance tax collection.

Mr. Adedayo disclosed that the Institute is billed to host its International Conference on Taxation and as such requested the Fund's participation and possible collaboration, as issues bordering on national and international interests on taxation would take the center stage and ideas on proffering solutions and designing models for improvement in the country's taxation system will be widely discussed by professionals.

While commending the efforts of TETFund, the CITN President noted that the Fund has been a leading intervention agency nationally acknowledged for lifting the face of public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria for global competitiveness.

He stated that CITN remains the recognized regulatory body for professionals in the field of taxation in the country and the Institute has entered into alliances with strategic partners in improving the standard and promoting capacity building of professionals for collective benefit of the nation.

Words by Oluwatosin Ishowo

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono described remittance of tax as the lifeline of the Fund, hence, the agency is open to all forms of benefitting partnerships and understanding on issues of taxation.

The TETFund boss revealed that the Fund is in strategic partnership with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) as the EDT collected on its behalf by FIRS is critical to the operations of the Fund.

Echono also revealed that the Fund through FIRS is sensitizing taxpayers on the importance of tax payment while putting efforts in place to appreciate and encourage leading taxpayers in the country.

While noting that Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with low taxation, he stated that efforts are being made to drive the country forward by designing a stable taxation system and models of remittance that will uplift the federation income, while sustaining the aspiration for tax net expansion.

CHIEF OF STAFF INAUGURATES KEY TETFUND PROJECTS AT NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Words by Farida Abbas



The Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari has inaugurated key TETFund projects at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

The projects are the new Senate Building of the university and the Central Engineering Workshop of the proposed Faculty of Engineering.

Speaking during the inauguration, Prof. Gambari stated that the inauguration of the 2020 TETFund High Impact Intervention projects had added impetus to the institution's status, noting that provision of the Central Engineering Workshop would go a long way in propelling the engineering programme of the university to be of the highest quality.

He commended TETFund for proving to be a strong collaborator and a critical partner in providing strategic infrastructure to public tertiary educational institutions across Nigeria.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary, TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono attributed the achievements being recorded by the Fund to the support of President Muhammadu Buhari.

"We at TETFund are working assiduously with various institutions to ensure that we complete additional 315 projects and commission them before the end of this administration. This level of achievement is because of the direct consequence of the support we are receiving from President Muhammadu Buhari", he said.

Also speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Suleiman Mohammed stated that the Senate Building and the three central engineering workshops of the proposed Faculty of Engineering of the institution were fully funded by TETFund through the 2020 Special High Impact Interventions.

According to the Vice Chancellor, the Senate building has 21 ensuite offices, 100 single offices, 42 shared toilets, six kitchenettes, one senate chamber, three conference rooms among other facilities.

He stressed further that the Gudi campus where the University is proposing to commence its Faculty of Engineering in the 2022/2023 Academic Session is now equipped with three central workshops fully completed.

TETFund Receives Delegation of Nigeria Computer Society

Words by Michael Agu

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) recently received a delegation of the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) led by its President, Prof. Adeshina Sodiya at the Agency's Headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking during the visit, Prof. Sodiya stated that reaching out to organizations like TETFund was key to NCS operations as it has critical programmes and recommendations especially in deepening research and development in the country.

The NCS President stated that the body has noted with interest, the Fund's activities, especially in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) which received a major boost and focused attention in 2022.

The President urged TETFund to pay key attention to software engineering and artificial intelligence, among others; as they aid operations and administration and offer a great platform to operate a knowledge based economy in the country.

Prof. Sodiya revealed that NCS has offered free services to the country for the past forty years and will not relent in driving Nigeria towards prosperity and advocating for the right atmosphere and environment technology to thrive in the country.

During the meeting he disclosed that the Fund's nomination for the 2022 National Information Technology Merit Awards (NITMA) for committed and excellent service delivery of its ICT intervention mandate.

In response, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono expressed appreciation to NCS for its efforts in aiding national policies and the drive for e-government master plan, noting that the society has been consistent in pushing for digitization of processes which is in line with global trends of utilizing ICT for productivity, efficiency and administration.

The Executive Secretary disclosed that TETFund is working on an initiative called "Internet for Education" which it intends to achieve through discussions with relevant stakeholders for the implementation of a national broadband policy with regards to tertiary institutions; while also putting in place a reliable and sustainable internet access for students, lecturers and researchers in Nigeria's public tertiary educational institutions.

TETFund Advocates Purposeful Policy on Research as Panacea to Nigeria's Development

Words by Otonbara F. A.

For Nigeria to achieve the desired progress as a knowledge-based economy, there must be a deliberate effort to bring Research and Development to the center stage through relevant policy implementation.

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc Sonny Echono gave the charge while delivering a keynote lecture at the 18th Convocation ceremony of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), in Enugu.

In the lecture titled "Education, Research and Human Development in Nigeria: The Challenges and Missing Link", Arc. Echono x-rayed the lingering challenges of the Nation's tertiary educational institutions and their inability to perform to expectations through viable researches that would lead to solutions to various human problems; stating that strengthening the Triple Helix Model, capacity building as well as focused funding of research would address the issues to a large extent.

He pointed out the major role of tertiary institutions as that of manpower development or human capital, which involves the task of inculcating the skills, aptitude, attitude, knowledge, morals, values, creative ability, promotion of research and also contributing to the development of the host communities. In achieving these roles, he said that there is need for effective teaching and learning, research development culture.

"At the heart of the neglect and negligible impact of research in Nigeria's national development efforts is the lack of clear-cut philosophy and goal for sustainable development of the Nigerian state. The conduct of research in the nation's higher institutions has not been accorded the seriousness and attention it deserves.

"Poor research output is a natural consequence of the absence of infrastructural facilities. Conducting research requires a conducive atmosphere or environment. In many institutions, basic infrastructure such as laboratories, instruments and equipment, internet connectivity, etc. are either absent or dilapidated. Similarly, the capacity of academics across higher institutions in Nigeria to carry out meaningful research is lacking".

"Many universities, polytechnics and colleges of education lecturers lack the basic ability, skill and motivation to carry out standard research in many fields. They are equally handicapped to access any grants or research funds either within or outside their institutions due to lack of capacity".

"The situation is compounded by lack of credible and timely data, absence of legal frameworks for research, low uptake and implementation of research results, academic corruption including protracted supervision of postgraduate students and low computer literacy amongst scholars," Arc. Echono lamented.

He explained that the missing link between education research and human capital development in Nigeria can be attributed to lack of effective interactions between the Academia (the University), Industry, and Government - the Triple Helix to foster economic and social development, which contemporary globalised economies have embraced and applied to attain greatness through innovation.

"Nations that recognise and apply the Triple Helix Model that espouses synergy among academia/research institutions, industry and government in national development drive have the ability to and play an active role in a knowledge driven economy. Academia and industry must interface in a sustainable manner that produces goods and services for local consumption and export as well as guarantee human capital development".

The Executive Secretary expressed hope that with the recent drive by TETFund for Nigeria to embrace the Triple Helix Model as the panacea for transforming research and education generally, research and development would soon get its place of pride.

vision

The Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc Sonny Echono has charged the Research and Development Standing Committee (RDSC) of TETFund to design an agenda that can fast track the research process in Nigeria.

He stated that the task is not only significant but urgent as Nigeria has reached an important milestone in national development that requires breaking new grounds, changing course and exploring all other alternatives to see how the country could be lifted from where it is presently and take its place in the comity of Nations.

research

Echono disclosed this when he met with the leadership of the Committee, led by its newly appointed chairman, Professor Anya O. Anya who succeeded late Emeritus Professor N. M. Gadzama at the Fund's headquarters in Abuja, recently.

According to the TETFund boss "there is no doubt that Nigerians have the best brains in the world, but Nigeria is still in a state of intentional hopelessness, especially amongst the youth that represent the future of our country". The Executive Secretary lamented that Nigeria has the largest youthful population growth in the world, yet the unemployment rate amongst the youth is the highest.

He further stressed that "Nigeria has not been able to control its population growth rate, coupled with the low growth rate of national economy and the capacity to activate or even explore the natural resources such as fertile soils, good climate and rich mineral resources".

The Executive Secretary implored the Committee to develop an agenda that can hasten development and tackle the issues of Science and Technology as well as Research and Development in the country.

TETFund Charges Committee to Fast Track Research Process in Nigeria

Words by Maria Joseph

While advocating for a special focus on applied research and translating the lofty ideas being discussed, including the implementation of plans and visions of the previous administration headed by Emeritus Professor Gadzama into concrete steps and actions, Arc. Echono expressed confidence that the Committee members would bring their wealth of experience to bear.

He was optimistic that the Standing Committee members would rise to the occasion as leaders and patriots with total commitment to achieving positive results, while assuring them of TETFund's support at all times.

He reiterated that TETFund remains resolute in making the right investments and harnessing all available human and material resources for the collective benefit of the country.

Speaking at the meeting, Prof. Anya O. Anya said the importance of Science and Technology in reshaping the future of Nigeria must be brought to the front burner.

"Many years from now, maybe 10 or 20 years, some will look at Nigeria and recognize this day as the day when Nigeria started taking Science and Technology seriously. I believe in the intention, the vision in all of us sitting here and hope that the lost time would be recovered and Nigeria must join nations who deploy Science and Technology for development," he said.

The Chairman intimated that countries that have been at the forefront of development have long embraced Science and Technology as veritable instruments for economic development.

PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE SEEKS TETFUND'S SUPPORT IN R&D

Words by Muazzam Garo

The Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN) has sought the support of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in Research and Development to further boost its capacity as the central learning institution for the Nigerian Public Service.

The Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of PSIN, Dr. Abdul-Ganiyu Obatoyinbo solicited the support when he led the management of the institute on a courtesy call to TETFund recently.

Dr. Obatoyinbo also called for a closer collaboration between both agencies to further foster the existing relationship, assuring that PSIN will continue to provide first class service required in areas of capacity building.

He said: "We have been relating in the area of promotion exams, training and retraining and I am very pleased to say that the transaction has been anchored on integrity in order to avoid a case where somebody will come and say there was any foul play in the process.

"I also would like to inform you that apart from capacity building, we are fully involved in Research and Development but we need a lot of support in that area.

"Equally important is to solicit your support in some other areas like infrastructure within the PSIN. You know our challenges and you know the environment; we are sitting on 97 hectares, it is a whole community and that is the face of service, so we need a befitting auditorium," he stated.



Speaking during the visit, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono thanked the leadership of the institute for the visit stating that the Fund would continue to partner with PSIN and provide support within the limits of its mandate.

"Our direct interventions are limited to only Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, so for any other institution, it has to be a collaborative effort through partnership, for example with you and a tertiary institution; that is the way we would be able to extend some benefits to your institution," he said.

NUC 60th Anniversary: TETFund Boss Calls for New Sustainable Funding Model for Tertiary Education

Worried by the myriad of problems associated with inadequate funding of the nation's tertiary education, the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc Sonny Echono has expressed the urgent need to adopt a more innovative and sustainable funding regime by stakeholders.

The Executive Secretary made the call while delivering a lecture titled "Sustainable Funding of Tertiary Education in Nigeria" on the 60 years anniversary celebration of the National Universities Commission (NUC) in Abuja.

The Executive Secretary decried a situation whereby public universities are funded majorly by the Government, which earmark less than 10 percent of the Federal Budget and even less at the state levels, leaving the institutions more handicapped and unable to provide basic needs.

Arc. Echono further stated that the rapid expansion of the higher education system, coupled with reoccurring global economic crisis has affected the funding of tertiary education in Nigeria; a situation that has worsened the endemic problem of poor quality of graduates, overcrowding in classrooms, outdated curricula, and deteriorating facilities. Other associated problems include high student-lecturer ratio, high ratio of non-teaching staff to teaching staff, inadequate motivation of academic staff and consequential inability to attract academics from across the globe.

He also added that "the incessant industrial actions, over the last few decades, by various staff unions in our tertiary institutions, bordering on challenges of funding, have further heightened the need to explore innovative, sustainable funding regime for tertiary education in the country. This implies rethinking stakeholders' involvement in education financing to secure a qualitative and functional tertiary education system, which is an essential tool for sustainable development".

Arc. Echono outlined three fundamental means of creating the new model of sustainable funding to include, a reasonable increment in government funding to conform with global standards, as well as increased transparency in the deployment of these funds.

Secondly, there is urgent need for a total revamping of the curricula to produce graduates who are better equipped to be job creators, rather than job seekers. This coupled with the "faithful implementation of the Triple-Helix-Model of Government, Academic and Industry collaboration, will upscale private sector contribution and demands and ultimately deliver benefits to all," Arc Echono posited.

The third recommendation focuses on generation of revenue internally by the tertiary institutions to complement other sources of income. "Our universities should be encouraged and supported to seek for additional revenue sources by developing a range of pathways and mechanisms, including ventures related to their core business of education delivery, research and services," he added.

Other key recommendations for consideration he said, should include redefining of government roles in tertiary education sector, enhancing the roles of Governing Councils, cost sharing by stakeholders, restoration of Education Bank, re-introduction of the Students Loan Scheme as well as exploring Partners (both home and abroad), Endowments, Research Grants and Ventures and creating wealth beyond teaching and research.

The anniversary celebration also witnessed the unveiling of the brand-new curriculum for university education in Nigeria to reflect the current realities of the 21st century.

Vice president of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr Boss Mustapha who unveiled the curriculum said the introduction of the Core Curriculum and Minimum Standard to university education also addresses local issues, meets international standards and uplift scholarship in universities.

He commended the Commission for coming up with such disciplines as Agriculture and three new courses namely, Allied Health Sciences, Architecture and Communication as well as Media Services.

TETFund Commits N7.8 Billion to Intervention Projects in CEO Akwanga

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has committed a total sum of N7,879,432,390 to intervention projects at the College of Education (COE), Akwanga, Nasarawa State from inception.

Minister of Environment, Alhaji Muhammed Abdullahi who disclosed this during the commissioning of three newly completed TETFund projects at the College in Akwanga, explained that the interventions were on infrastructural development, Academic Staff Development and content, among others.

The Minister stated that the commissioning of the projects sponsored by TETFund was a continuation of the agency's intervention in the institution.

He gave a breakdown of the three newly completed projects as follows; Home Economics Department Complex -N348,466,368.97; Undergraduates Programmes Complex -N174,759,172.87 and School of Education Complex -N434,578,894.30 making a total of N954, 804,436.14.

The Minister expressed the Federal Government's commitment towards the continuous provision of needed infrastructure for improved teaching and learning in the country's tertiary educational institutions.

Words by Hadiza Mamu

He noted that President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to education has been undaunted as observed in his recent move for the upward review of the 2 percent Education Tax to 2.5 percent, adding that the commissioning of the projects would further enhance teaching and learning in the institution.

On Academic Staff Training and Development, he stated that the Fund had sponsored a total of 108 lecturers from the College for Ph.D degrees, 179 for Masters Degrees, in both foreign and local institutions, totaling N799,570,466, while 119 staff were sponsored to attend conferences at a total cost of N150, 925,069.

Also speaking at the event, Nasarawa State Commissioner for Education, Hajiya Fatu Jimaita, said TETFund, through its interventions has played a remarkable role in the provision of quality education in the country.

The Commissioner commended the Fund for the projects and expressed hope that the structures would not only be put to good use but also protected for posterity.



The Provost of the College, Rev. Jonathan Thani, in his remarks, acknowledged the impact of TETFund on the College, including staff training, infrastructures and facilities, among others.

While thanking TETFund for the projects, the Provost called for more interventions from the Agency, lamenting that the College which has over 16,000 student population does not have a befitting library, except the old one constructed since 1973.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, who was represented by the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, Arc. Babatunde Olajide stated that the current administration has invested greatly in infrastructure in its over seven years of existence to aid teaching and learning in tertiary institutions.

While disclosing that construction work on the projects commenced in 2019 and completed in 2022, he tasked the College management to commit the buildings to good use and ensure maintenance of the structures for the advancement of learning in the institution.

TETFUND, INNOV8 HUB PARTNER TO BOOST INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN NIGERIA

Words by Habiba Rabi

As part of efforts towards achieving technological and economic development in the country, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has gone into partnership with Innov8 Hub, an Innovation Startup driven organization, to make innovative opportunities accessible to academics in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) programme held at the Innov8 hub in Abuja, the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu said the initiative would help address the gaps in education and proffer solutions that would help Nigeria meet global demands.

Adamu, who was represented by the Minister of State for Education, Rt. Honorable Goodluck Nanah Opiah stated further that “most of the countries that have emerged as global leaders have achieved this status through ingenuity and hard work of their scientists. I believe that all the experiences gained would be deployed to improve and expand the frontiers of Science and Technology in solving real life problems”.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono expressed the readiness of the Fund to support and replicate innovation hub projects in public universities and other tertiary educational institutions in the country.

The Executive Secretary stated that “being a year- long programme, TETFAIR is aimed at providing unique opportunities for our academics and researchers to transform their ideas into market-driven solutions, including the development and fabrication of prototypes. Through the programme, selected teams of researchers and academic staff with promising ideas for innovative solutions in the program areas of focus are being taken through a journey that combines technology and product development along with venture creation”.

According to Echono, many Nigerians who took part in startup programmes by Innov8 Hub have recorded several breakthroughs in inventions and technology.

On his part, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Universities Commission, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed conveyed deep appreciation of the initiative by TETFund, adding that the TETFAIR would add much needed value to the effectiveness of academics as instructors in Nigerian higher institutions, through providing them with skills acquisition opportunities.

Also speaking at the event, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Senator Adeleke Mamora, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Monilola Udoh stated that the initiative would further help in harnessing the massive talent in Science and Engineering in Nigeria as well as boosting local enterprises.

Speaking on the role of Innov8 Hub in the collaboration, the Communications Adviser, Mr. Deji Ige said “Innov8 Hub in simple terms, is a midwife that helps Nigerians who are pregnant with innovative ideas, to birth their ideas into invention, nurse their invention into solution, and transform their solution into enterprise”.



While stating that Innov8 Hub has helped Nigerians develop and perfect over 72 prototypes ready for commercialization, he added that it has also been involved in the emergence of 15 solid startups and currently working with over 150 innovators, inventors and venture creators, among whom are academics and researchers.

In his vote of thanks, TETFund Director of Research and Development, Dr. Salihu Girei Bakari commended the initiative and outlined some of the benefits of the partnership which include reduction in the wholesale consumption of foreign technology and an increase in knowledge creation and absorption through creation of patents.

TETFund, FIRS Collaborate on Boosting Education Tax Remittance

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) have renewed collaborative moves aimed at boosting Education Tax (EDT) collection and assisting the Fund deliver on its mandate of uplifting tertiary institutions in the country.

This was highlighted at the 2022 TETFund/FIRS Annual Interactive Forum themed “Boosting Education Tax collection for the growth and development of tertiary education in Nigeria” which held in Kano, Port Harcourt and Lagos.

Speaking at the Forum in Lagos, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono reiterated that the Fund derives its revenue through FIRS collections and as the Accounting Officer, he remains committed to the judicious utilization of EDT collections in line with the TETFund Act while also promoting transparency and accountability to the government and citizens of Nigeria.

“There is no doubt about the fact that tax collections have direct correlation to earnings and subsequently the growth of any functional economic system. Invariably therefore, the growth of education tax which forms the bedrock of TETFund’s vision and mission in the nation’s education is one that is consistently on the front burner.

“It is therefore not a mere coincidence that the focus of our discourse in this year’s Forum is centered on how to stimulate, improve and sustain the collection of education tax by all stakeholders,” Arc. Echono said.

On the importance of the Interactive Forum, he said “The pivotal role EDT plays in the nation’s educational system as deployed by the Fund is one of the reasons the Interactive Forum is highly essential in the general operations of TETFund.”

Arc. Sonny Echono expressed delight in the EDT collection for the year 2022, stressing that FIRS has given the necessary impetus to the Agency’s desire to boost increase in the EDT collection.

He disclosed that as of September 2022, the EDT collection revealed by the FIRS was pegged at 309 billion Naira, which had exceeded the N305 billion target set for the FIRS.

While commending the FIRS for the improved collection, he noted that the Fund still aspires to attain the N500 billion yearly EDT collection to bolster tertiary education funding in the country.

Words by Oluwatosin Ishowo and Maria Joseph



“We duly recognize the immense contribution of your mandate as the foremost and critical revenue service of the Federal Government, from which we as a funding agency of the same government derive our intervention and operational funds. We must therefore expand incidence, by bringing all eligible taxpayers within the basket, while assiduously improving efficiency of collection,” he emphasized.

The Executive Chairman of FIRS Mr. Muhammad Nami, who was represented by the FIRS Lagos-East Coordinator, Mr. Abubakar Sodiq Mohammed noted with delight that participants at the Forum included beneficiaries of the numerous interventions of TETFund and critical stakeholders in Nigeria.

Nami pointed out that transparency and accountability have never been an issue in the history of TETFund intervention, while also noting that platforms such as the yearly interactive forum remains necessary for contributions towards improvement of education tax collection in the country.

He assured TETFund of the agency’s continued support as well as total commitment to EDT collection in the country; stating that the infusion of technology and collaboration with relevant bodies has aided the Agency’s operations.

The Executive Chairman stressed that FIRS is obligated to blocking revenue leakages and encouraged participants at the Forum to report unwholesome practice by taxpayers, tax advisers and staff to the FIRS Management for necessary action.

PHASE ONE OF TETFUND HOUSING ESTATE COMMISSIONED

Words by Michael Agu

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono has commissioned 92 units of two and three-bedroom terrace houses for staff at the TETFund Housing Estate, Kabusa District, Abuja.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony, the Executive Secretary expressed satisfaction with the quality and timely delivery of the projects while urging the contractors to ensure installation of necessary facilities at the site in line with the terms of agreement.

He reiterated the commitment of TETFund Management to improve the quality of life of its staff and also protect them from scammers in the Real Estate sector, while disclosing that the second phase would commence in the First Quarter of 2023.

“The housing scheme of the Fund is designed to enable members of staff to own homes without being put under undue financial stress. It also protects staff from the potentially devastating trauma experienced by some victims of land scams which is prevalent in Abuja and indeed the entire Real Estate Sector today. Management is convinced that the Staff Housing Scheme will improve the quality of life of benefiting staff and also contribute to boosting productivity and morale of staff.

“I am also pleased to inform you that the second phase of the scheme which will benefit other categories of staff who did not benefit from this on-going project will commence by the grace of God early in the new year”, he said.

The Director of Human Resource and General Administration of TETFund, Barr. Adamu Abubakar congratulated the beneficiaries and stated that the Housing Scheme which commenced towards the last quarter of 2020 was aimed at providing affordable houses for staff.

In a symbolic presentation, some selected staff were presented with keys to their houses, on behalf of other beneficiaries.



TETFund Meets Heads of Institutions, Announces New Policy Approach

In line with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund's (TETFund) drive for reforms and commitment to quality service delivery, the Executive Secretary of the Fund, Arc Sonny Echono has announced new policy approach in the agency's processes and businesses.

He revealed this during an interactive meeting with Heads of TETFund beneficiary institutions in the country held at the National Universities Commission (NUC) Auditorium, Abuja.

The Executive Secretary explained that the meeting became necessary to input new ideas and discuss models for the 2023 interventions and beyond. He announced that the Fund is presently reviewing its guidelines for interventions and open to receiving inputs from stakeholders in order to improve its services.

According to the TETFund boss, the Agency aims at adopting a bottom-up approach for its intervention budget and the interactive meeting presented a good platform for getting feedback on the Fund's interventions and various projects.

Echono revealed that TETFund has been consistent in its drive for excellence by putting measures in place that deepens global competitiveness, promotes local and international partnerships via Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with strategic partners, especially in areas of Innovation, Agriculture and ICT.

He intimated that ICT formed the central focus of the Fund's intervention for 2022 to equip beneficiary institutions with up-to-date skills in curriculum and instructional materials delivery, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the critical role of ICT for global and national development.

The Executive Secretary told participants that the Fund has embarked on strategic partnership with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to improve education tax collection, leading to a collection that has surpassed the targeted revenue.

The TETFund Boss revealed that Emergency and Disaster Management will form a new intervention line of the Fund, as some institutions are affected by natural disasters such as floods which damages materials that are vital to learning.

He also stated that the Fund aims at making specific provisions for distressed projects before embarking on new ones, while also accommodating the obvious need for security architecture such as perimeter fencing for some selected institutions that critically need them.



"In addition, the Fund is also making provisions for the establishment of Education Laboratory in Federal Colleges of Education, as well as a Centre of Excellence for Diaspora Research in partnership with Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) to be sited in University of Ibadan to provide platforms for Nigerians who have succeeded outside to share experiences and knowledge with those at home", Echono said.

Participants at the meeting advocated for attention to be given to TETFund scholars, especially the refusal of some beneficiaries of the scholarship intervention to return to the country to service their bond. They also appealed that consideration should be given to the merits of having a centralized system for research grants in the country.

The Chief Executives of the various tertiary institutions equally charged the Fund to consider introducing CCTV cameras to TETFund sponsored buildings, while stressing that the benefits of the book development intervention project of the Fund should be extended to authors as only publishers get benefits.

In attendance were the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC); Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, Executive Secretary of National Board for Technical Education (NBTE); Prof. Idris M. Bugaje; Executive Secretary of National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE); Prof. Paulinus Okwelle among others.

TETFUND RECEIVES EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Words by Amos Anetekhai



The Adamawa State University, Mubi has bestowed an award on the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in recognition of its role in the development of tertiary education in Nigeria.

The award of 'Education Development' was presented to TETFund during the 20th Anniversary celebration of the institution, which also witnessed lecture series recalling the milestones of the university, since 13th February, 2003.

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono was represented at the event by the Assistant Chief Education Officer in the North-East Zonal Office of the Fund, Mr. Optimist Habila, who received the award on behalf of TETFund.

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Kaletapwa George Farauta while delivering his speech during the ceremony disclosed that the institution is on the right track in terms of accessing its intervention funds from TETFund, with the restoration of access to academic staff training as well as development of physical infrastructure.

He said, "I am happy to inform you that in the area of staff development, the number of associate and full professors which is a critical requirement in the academia has increased from 2 to 68 since this management came on board".

Professor Farauta explained that the institution has achieved a lot of its set goals as a result of the Management's commitment in surmounting previous challenges in accessing TETFund intervention funds.



PRESIDENT BUHARI INAUGURATES TETFund SPONSORED PROJECTS IN NDA, AFIT, KADUNA POLY & KADUNA VARSITY.

Words by Adebayo Phillips

President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR has commissioned projects funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in four (4) institutions across Kaduna State.

The President who was represented by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence, Senator Aliyu Wamakko, commissioned the State-of-the-Art projects at the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA), the Airforce Institute of Technology (AFIT), The Polytechnic Kaduna and the Kaduna State University.

Senator Wamakko who was excited by the quality of the projects commissioned, expressed profound appreciation to President Muhammadu Buhari for the opportunity to represent him and perform the inauguration of the iconic projects on his behalf.

In his address, he said "It is important to commend and appreciate the President for his unwavering support to the development of the education sector, and particularly in this case, TETFund. You would agree with me that his support for the intervention activities of TETFund has in no small measure contributed to the success stories the Fund and its beneficiary institutions have continued to record".

Speaking further, he commended the Heads of the institutions, management, staff and students for the developmental strides at the institutions. He also congratulated and commended the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono and his team for their effort in effectively discharging the mandate of the Fund for the continuous development of public tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

He said education plays a critical and vital role in the socio-economic development of nations and therefore, the commissioning of these projects at the Institutions would no doubt further enhance teaching and learning and also improve academic standards.

The Lawmaker promised to continue to provide necessary support towards making the nation's educational institutions globally competitive for economic and technological development of the country.

"It is on record that through the support of the Federal Government, TETFund has performed excellently well in the provision of physical infrastructure, support for Academic Staff Training and Development, Book Publication, ICT, Research and Development amongst others in public tertiary educational institutions across the country," he said.



Also speaking during the commissioning of projects at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), the Commandant, Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Yusuf, said the projects include a CBT Hall, Faculty of Management and Military Science buildings.

He said, "the institution received over N8.2 billion support from TETFund in the last seven years. About 6 billion of the money went into infrastructural development while N2.2 billion was spent on training, research and publication, Library and ICT, among others".



He stated that the Federal Government had also invested in manpower development of Cadets, which by implication goes to the development of the entire Armed Forces of Nigeria, adding that NDA currently has 9 ongoing TETFund projects from merged funds for 2019 to 2022 interventions. This include 800 rooms accommodation for Cadets, which would be ready shortly.



Speaking at the event the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, who was represented by the Director, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), Arc. Babatunde Olajide, reiterated the commitment of TETFund to ensure that value is obtained for funds allocated to benefitting institutions to aid teaching, learning and research.



NIGERIAN RESEARCHERS HAND OVER COVID-19 VACCINE FOR PRE-CLINICAL TRIAL

Words by Abdulmalik Adio

SCI BUZZ >

A consortium of Nigerian researchers engaged in the Vaccine Development Mega Research Project at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), sponsored by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) have presented the COVID-19 DNA Vaccine Candidate (SJN3T CorVac) for preclinical trials in the country.

According to the academics, despite the numerous challenges faced during the procurement of some of the consumables, equipment, and reagents from overseas, the vaccine was made ready within 11 months of the receipt of the first tranche of the TETFund grant.

This was revealed at the symbolic handover of the vaccine candidate in UDUS, Sokoto, for trial by the academics.

Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof. Lawal Suleman Bilbis, speaking at the "Presentation of Milestone on the TETFund-sponsored Vaccine Development Mega Research Project," said the handing over of a vaccine candidate for trials goes a long way in projecting the ability of indigenous scientists to solve the nation's problems while relying on home-grown resources and facilities.



The Vice Chancellor said, "the milestone portrays our expertise in the application of state-of-the-art technologies to rapidly develop vaccine candidates against any emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases in Nigeria," while reiterating that the nation is very close to reaping the benefits of the investment and confidence bestowed upon home grown scientists.

Prof. Bilbis while appreciating the Management of TETFund for providing the funds, noted that with the continued support of the Fund, researchers in the University have been able to work on many other high-impact projects that are already yielding promising results.

"As I speak, we have successfully designed and constructed a recombinant DNA vaccine targeting all the lineages of Lassa Virus circulating in Nigeria, using TETFund National Research Fund (NRF) grant. Additionally, TETFund Covid-19 Special Intervention Research Grant has supported our study on the innovative approach to rapidly identify potential therapeutics for COVID-19,"

"The study identified 7 orthodox medicines for repurposing and 2 herbal medicines with significant inhibitory activities against the virus that causes COVID-19. Indeed, there are many more TETFund-supported projects, too numerous to mention, which are helping our researchers to showcase their talents and skills, while at the same time, assisting to solve the nation's problems. We remain extremely grateful to TETFund for its support," he added.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, lauded the efforts and output by the University in terms of Research and Development, adding that the institution has succeeded in accessing over 35 NRF grants over the years, placing it among the best performing Beneficiary Institutions in accessing the National Research Fund (NRF) while appealing to Nigerian researchers not to relent on the principal goal of delivering a homemade Covid-19 vaccine.

The TETFund boss also declared that the mega research project is one out of four projects supported by the fund at a total sum of N1,250,000,000, the aim of which is to "strengthen collaborative research by promoting decentralized cooperation involving clusters of researchers from different institutions to consolidate problem-solving research and promote innovation in Nigeria."



Arch. Echono pointed out that TETFund has been making concentrated efforts at identifying more innovative ways of utilizing government and donor funding in research programmes and projects for national development.

"This Project has shown that collaboration among stakeholders, each adding value from their area of specialization to address issues of national priority will achieve the desired goals towards national development and tackling of developmental challenges. It also indicates to us that we are moving in the right direction, as one of the mandates of the Fund's R&D Department is to promote multi-disciplinary research that will increase stakeholders' participation in developmental matters," he said.

Arc. Sonny Echono while congratulating the team of researchers on behalf of the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu and the TETFund NRF programme revealed that the research consortium consists of the National Veterinary Research Institute (VOM), UDUS; University of Jos (UNIJOS) and the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology, Zaria.

He lauded the progress of the researchers, stating that they have displayed competence, and professionalism for these great feat in vaccine production within a time limit thereby making the country proud.

On the progress made by the research group, Echono hinted that "Few months ago, President Muhammadu Buhari welcomed the CEO of BioNtech, the patent holder for mRNA COVID-19 vaccine who had come to interact with Nigerian biomedical scientists and officials of the Federal Ministry of Health on the possibility of supporting mRNA vaccine production in the country.

"It gladdened my heart to be informed that the Vaccine development consortium sponsored by TETFund, under the Mega research project intervention was selected by the Honorable Minister of Health to interact with the BioNtech officials where they showcased their on-going vaccine development projects at the State House.

"As a result of their fruitful engagements, BioNtech expressed its immediate readiness to establish research partnership with Nigeria, in the area of strengthening local vaccine manufacturing in the country and the entire continent.

"Thus, the country leveraged on the existing Mega Research funded vaccine development consortium to gain the confidence of BioNtech in establishing a hub for mRNA vaccine manufacture in Nigeria," he said.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**To
A Leader
An Innovator
An Administrator**

**TETFund
wishes you
many happy
returns in good
health and
more wisdom**

Events Within The Quarter



Celebrations/Awards



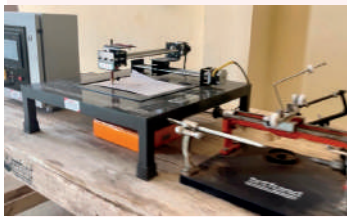
Commissioning of TETFund Sponsored Projects



Kaduna State University (KASU)



Nigeria Defence Academy



Kaduna State University (KASU)



Kaduna State University (KASU)



Sokoto State University, Covid-19 Unvelling



Kaduna State University (KASU)



Kaduna State University (KASU)



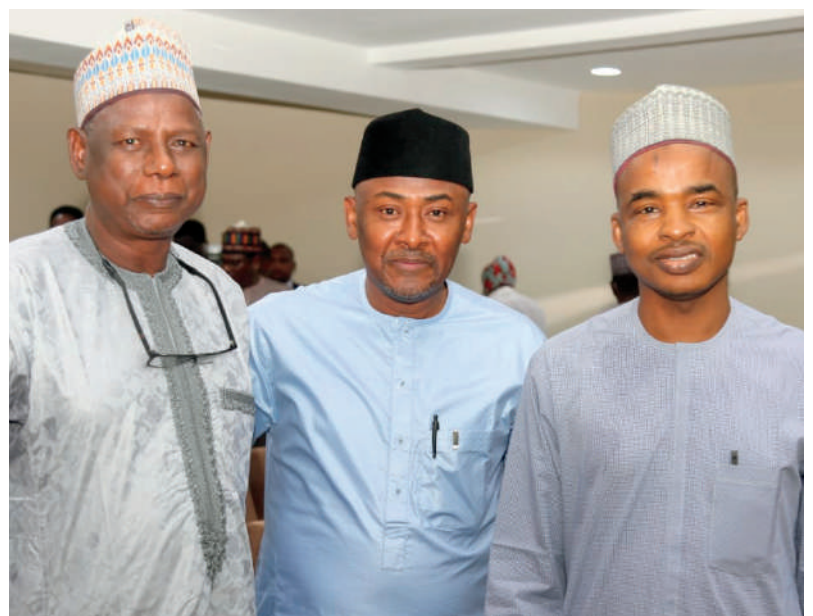
Nassarawa State University (NSU)



TETFund Staff Merit Awardees



Other Events Within The Quarter



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | C | M | D | O | G | L | M | T | J | N | T | M | I | N | E | D | E |
| N | J | T | B | I | A | B | I | C | O | S | U | P | P | O | R | T | D |
| F | O | U | L | N | G | I | L | I | U | A | T | O | V | E | A | R | U |
| A | R | N | R | L | I | S | T | R | R | G | D | A | S | J | G | A | C |
| L | S | U | P | O | U | A | T | R | N | R | E | E | F | M | E | I | A |
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| J | Y | D | U | U | B | A | L | S | L | A | T | R | A | I | N | I | E |
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Read the clues at the side to figure out the answers

BRAIN TEASER

REMOVE THREE LETTERS FROM SIXTY TO GET NINE!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU USE IT EVERY MONTH, YOU MUST ALWAYS CHANGE IT!

TERTIARY
EDUCATION
TRUST
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SUPPORT
ACADEMIC
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RESEARCH
JOURNAL
LIBRARY

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0800TETFund

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Board at The Polytechnic,
Kaduna sponsored by
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Our Intervention lines are:

- Physical Infrastructure /programme Upgrade
- TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff
- Library Development
- Conference Attendance
- Teaching Practice
- National Research Fund
- Institution Based Research
- Publications of Journals
- TETFund Project Maintenance
- ICT Support
- Manuscript Development
- Entrepreneurship
- Fabrication of Equipment
- Academic Research Journal
- Advocacy and Publicity

PANORAMA

COMMISSIONING BY PMB CONTINUES

Yusuf Maitama Sule
University, Senate
Building Kano State,
Nigeria

TETFund
Meets Heads
of
BENEFICIARY
INSTITUTIONS

TETFund, Innov8
Hub partner for
Innovative
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4th Quarter Panorama.
13th October 2022 - January 2023



PANORAMA

COMMISSIONING BY PMB CONTINUES

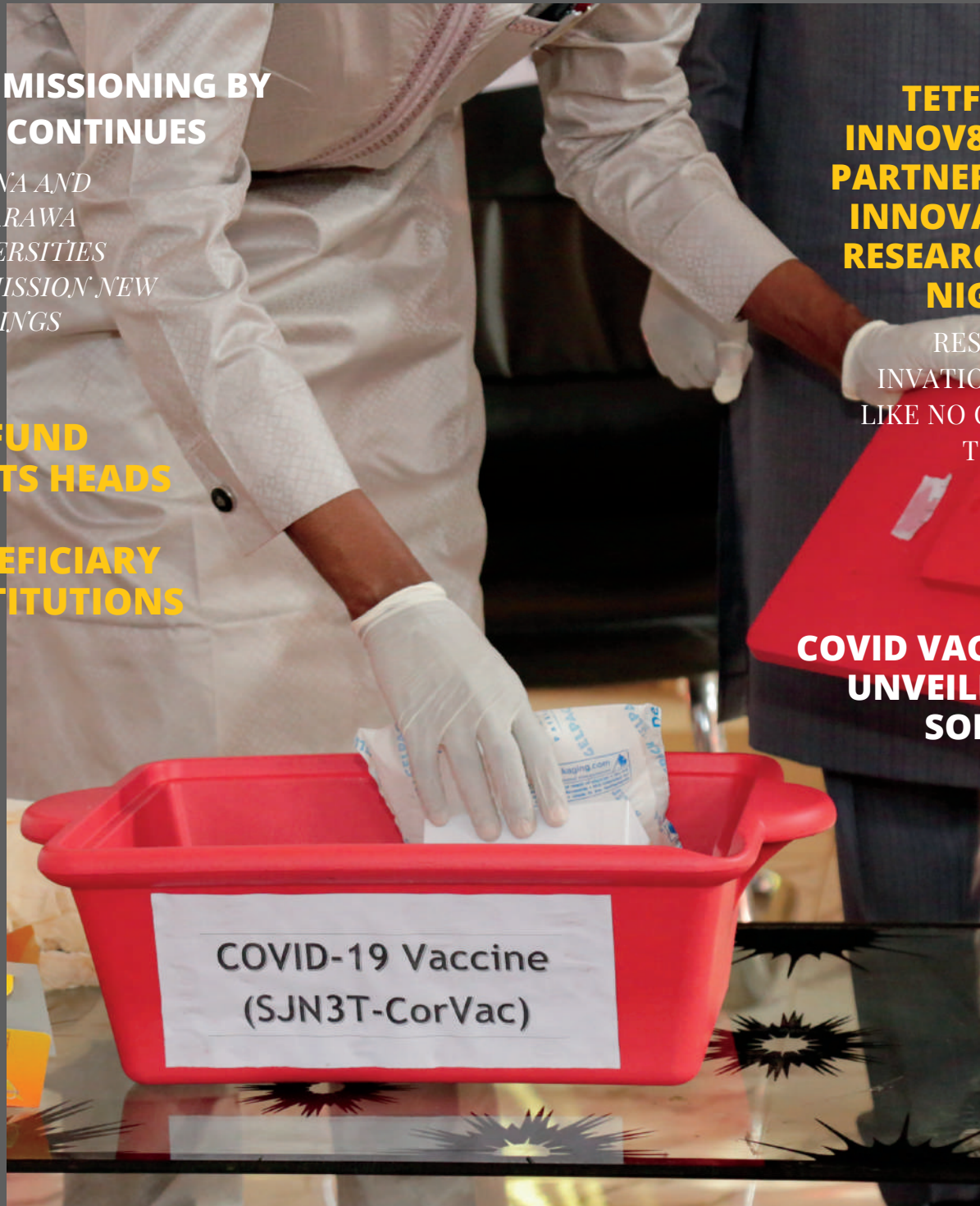
*KADUNA AND
NASSARAWA
UNIVERSITIES
COMMISSION NEW
BUILDINGS*

TETFUND MEETS HEADS OF BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS

TETFUND, INNOV8 HUB PARTNER FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH IN NIGERIA

RESEARCH
INNOVATION FAIR
LIKE NO OTHER
TETFAIR

COVID VACCINE UNVEILED IN SOKOTO



TETFUND MERIT AWARDS

WWW.TETFUND.GOV.NG

4th Quarter Panorama.
13th October 2022 - January 2023



PANORAMA

COMMISSIONING BY PMB CONTINUES

*KADUNA AND NASSARAWA
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RESEARCH INNOV8
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AWARDS**

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Manuscript Development

Entrepreneurship

Fabrication of Equipment

Academic Research Journal

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PANORAMA

4TH QUARTER

13 OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022



**COMMISSIONING BY PMB
CONTINUES**



**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS
WITH
STAKEHOLDERS**

