

REMARKS AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE TETFUND-SPONSORED CENTRAL LIBRARY COMPLEX AT THE BAUCHI STATE UNIVERSITY, GADAU BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARC. SONNY S.T. ECHONO, OON, FNIA ON FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023

Protocols

- His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir
- His Excellency, Hon. Aliyu Bappah Misau, Deputy Chairman, House Committee on TETFund and Other Services, representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and members of his entourage.
- Chancellor of the University, Emir of Bauchi, Alh. (Dr.) Sulaiman Adamu
- Our Royal Fathers here present
- The Pro Chancellor/Chairman of University Governing Council, Prof. Ango Abdullahi
- Vice Chancellor, Prof. Fatimah Tahir
- Deputy Vice Chancellors
- Principal Officers of the University
- Deans, Directors, and Heads of Departments
- Officers and Members of Staff of the University
- Leaders and Members of Unions – both Staff and Student Unions
- Members of the Press
- Distinguished Guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2. I bring you warm greetings and compliments from my boss, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono, who has mandated me to represent him at this commissioning event. He has asked me to convey his apologies for his inability to personally attend this event today for some exigent official commitments. Accordingly, he has asked me to read these remarks on his behalf.

3. It is indeed an honour to be invited to the commissioning of this magnificent TETFund-sponsored Central Library Complex, which is to also mark the memorable occasion of the University's Maiden Combined Convocation ceremony. I specially congratulate the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor, and Members of the University Senate and Management for surmounting the various hurdles towards achieving this feat. It is indeed a giant step forward in the history of the University and we at TETFund are delighted to be associated with this achievement. I equally salute the Visitor, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed who has given unflinching support to the progress of the University in the fulfilment of its mandate.

4. Bauchi State University, Gadau has been a beneficiary of TETFund interventions from year 2012 when it became enlisted as a beneficiary of the Fund's interventions and has enjoyed robust support from the Fund in its quest to establish itself as an outstanding scholar training institution in the North-East geo-political zone of the

country. From year 2012 to date, TETFund has allocated the sum of **N17,336,446,369.32** for infrastructure-related interventions only, cutting across the Annual, Special, Special High Impact and Zonal interventions, amongst others. With about 97% funds already accessed, we note with delight that these funds are being deployed judiciously in the provision of requisite facilities, which are obviously seen in various locations on the campus here. No doubt, projects undertaken with these funds have remarkably impacted on the mandate of the university in facilitating teaching, learning, research, and community service.

5. The Central Library Complex being commissioned today was a project approved under the Years 2017-2019 (Merged) Annual intervention of the Fund at a total cost of N1,025,000,000.00, inclusive of construction, furnishing, equipping, external works and consultancy. It is gratifying to note that the project was successfully completed and handed over to the University after the construction which spanned approximately 2-3years. The doggedness and focus of the University Management in the face of various debilitating circumstances we have faced collectively as a nation is worth noting and commending as we now see the project ready for formal inauguration and commencement of usage. We are delighted therefore to witness this ceremony for the unveiling and commissioning of the edifice. We are quite confident that this edifice will be a resource powerhouse for stocking current publications and periodicals for knowledge acquisition and will be a strong resource base for carrying out diverse research endeavours. We are also optimistic that this edifice will be a reference monument in Northern Nigeria as a credible base for the acquisition and enrichment of knowledge.

6. Let me assure you that the Fund will continually ensure that our interventions are sustained and improved upon as much as possible to enable our institutions undertake impactful projects that will make them become globally competitive and situate them in enviable positions among their peers nationally and globally. We shall continually engage with our beneficiary institutions towards ensuring the delivery of impactful intervention programmes with the funds accruable for our yearly interventions.

7. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is not always a smooth ride completing edifices of this nature, especially in our environment where the volatility rate is so high, and projects are being impacted negatively and struggling to be completed. Consequently, I urge the University Management and users of this facility to jealously protect it and ensure that any sign(s) of structural dilapidations are addressed promptly to preserve its integrity and serve other generations coming behind.

8. We are pleased to be associated with your success story and do enjoin the university to keep the flag flying. I welcome you all once again to this event and do wish you a great time.

9. Thank you.