

PANORAMA

October 2023 -
January 2024

Magazine

SSANU
COMMENDS
TETFund

TETFund
improves on
innovation
support

Blackboard:
the Way
Forward

**FG APPROVES
683 BILLION
NAIRA TO
BENEFICIARY
INSTITUTIONS**

**NIGERIA, UK
STRENGTHEN
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP**

**TINUBU
COMMISSION
S TETFund
PROJECTS
NATIONWIDE**

A Knowledge Driven Economy

Innovation

Research

Digital Literacy

Planning

Partnership



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Editor's Note

Hurray! It is Year 2024; and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), we wish all our esteemed stakeholders and readers a Happy New Year.

This edition of TETFund Panorama features activities carried out by the Fund in the last quarter of 2023 up to a part of January 2024.

The Year 2024 began on an eventful and historic note for TETFund and all its Beneficiary Institutions as a massive and unprecedented sum of N683 billion was approved by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR as the 2024 Intervention Budget.

The approval was announced by the Executive Secretary of TETFund at the 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting held with Heads of Beneficiary Institutions on January 12, 2024 in Abuja. Details of this epic moment is captured in this edition of the magazine.

The last quarter of 2023 witnessed the inauguration of numerous TETFund-sponsored projects in Beneficiary Institutions by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and some members of the National Assembly.

The President who was represented at the events by some members of his cabinet expressed satisfaction at the various projects put in place in the institutions and gave assurance of his administration's total commitment to educational development in Nigeria.

Similarly, members of the National Assembly who participated in the inauguration exercise have assured that the Assembly would continue to provide necessary support to TETFund through the enactment of legislations that would further advance tertiary education in Nigeria.

Stories and pictorials of these epoch-making events are featured in this edition for your information and pleasure.

Another edition of the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) Showcase was held in December 2023 at the Innov8 Hub, Abuja. The event which had in attendance top government functionaries and people from all walks of life featured the exhibition of products and innovations developed by researchers who participated in the year-long programme. Find out details herein.

To ameliorate some of the educational challenges being faced by person living with disabilities in the country, the Fund has expressed commitment towards making provision for facilities that would aid in access to better education.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund made the commitment when the leadership of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities paid a courtesy call on him. You can read the story further in this edition.

The Professor Olufemi Bamiro-led Committee on the Establishment of Multipurpose Laboratories in selected Beneficiary Institutions across the country, inaugurated by the Fund in September 2023 has submitted its report. Check out details of the submission as you read on.

The Federal Government has said it would leverage on the global Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to meet up with prevailing global standards to transform the education sector. The Minister of Education stated this during a meeting with Anthology group.

In the same vein, Nigeria and the United Kingdom are intensifying educational partnerships for mutual benefits.

Find out details about these and more in this New Year Edition of TETFund Panorama.

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PRESIDENT TINUBU APPROVES N683 BILLION AS 2024 INTERVENTION FUNDS

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN & SAADATU SALIHU

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has approved over N683 billion as 2024 allocation to Beneficiary Institutions of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

This was disclosed by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono during the 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting held with Heads of Institutions in January 2024 at the Fund’s Headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking at the meeting, Arc. Echono said “I am pleased to inform you that Mr. President has approved the Year 2024 disbursement guidelines in the total sum of N683,429,268,402.64. From this total, 90.75% is budgeted for direct disbursement and 8.94% for some designated special projects. A stabilization of 2.27% is allowed to enable the Fund respond to emerging issues. This is inclusive of the difference between actual collections and the projections made for November and December 2023 collections as requested and approved by Mr. President”.

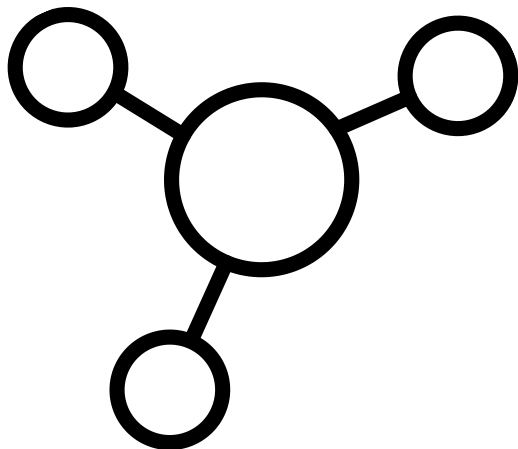
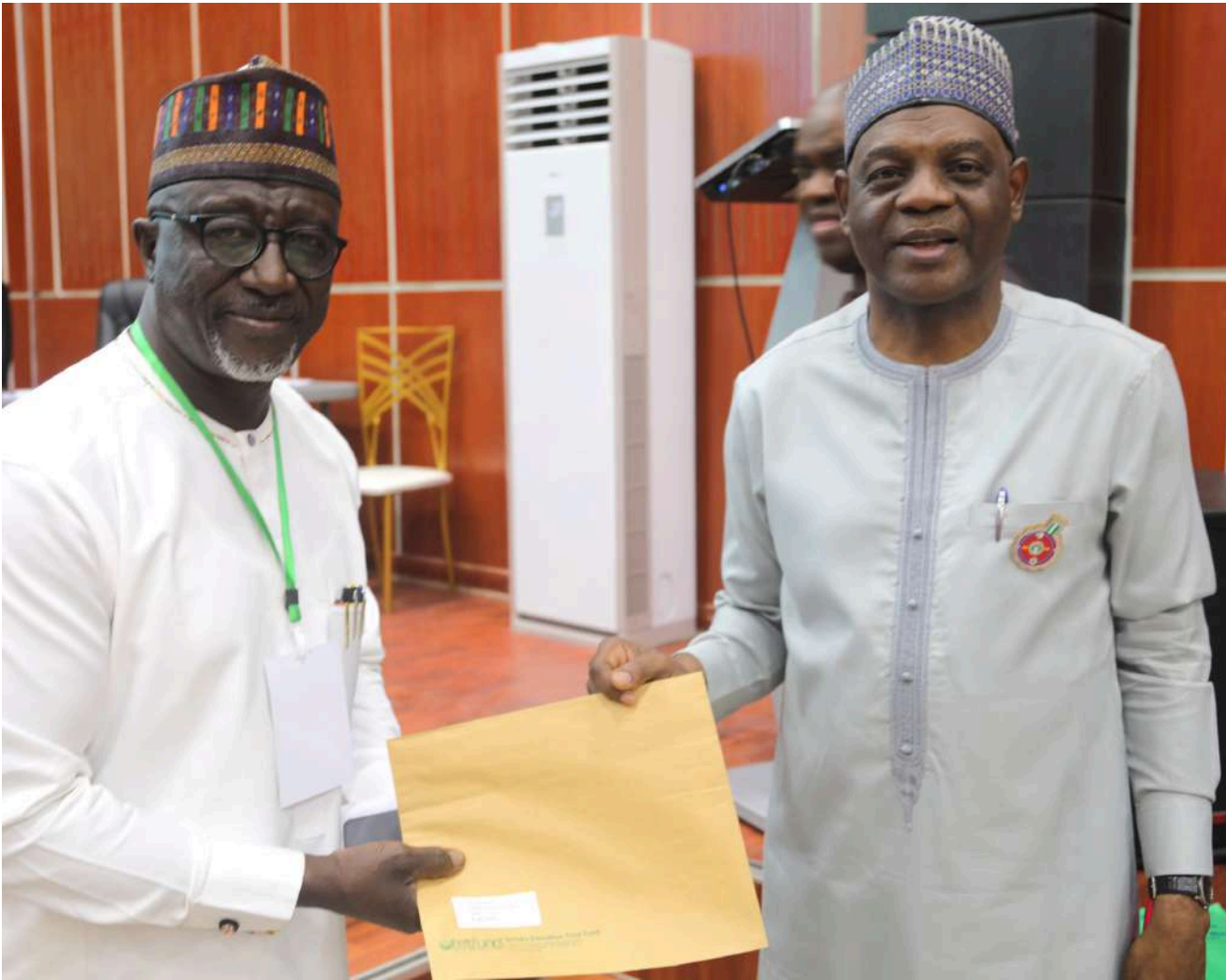
“Based on this approval, each University will get, for the Year 2024 intervention cycle, the total amount of N1,906,944,930.00. This comprises N1,656,944,930.00 as Annual Direct Disbursement and N250million as Zonal Intervention. Similarly, each Polytechnic will get N1,165,355,235.00 comprising of N1,015,355,235.00 as Annual Direct Disbursement and N150million as Zonal Intervention, while each College of Education will get N1,398,426,282.00 comprising of N1,248,426,282.00 as Annual Direct Disbursement and N150million as Zonal Intervention,” he added.

The Executive Secretary also disclosed approvals for new intervention lines in the Annual Direct Disbursement, which include establishment of Career Centres/Unit in all categories of Beneficiary Institutions as well as Institution-Based Skills Development for Polytechnics.

For the Special Direct Disbursement, he announced that TETFund has increased the allocation for the Special High Impact Programme (SHIP), and the number of benefitting institutions have also been increased to two Universities, two Polytechnics and two Colleges of Education per geo-political zone, giving a total of 36 beneficiary institutions in the 6 geo-political zones of Nigeria.

He further stated that other areas of Special Direct Disbursement include provision of hostels using the Public/Private Partnership arrangement, innovation hubs, disaster recovery to flood prone areas, security infrastructure, completion of abandoned projects and many others.

The Executive Secretary who spoke on the significant boost in Education Tax Collection (EDT) for 2024 said “It is pertinent to note that this represents a very significant increase above our last year’s intervention and indeed every other year, since inception. This remarkable success is due to, sustained efforts at expanding and increasing the efficiency of collection of the Education Tax, and the gracious concurrence of Mr. President for an increase in the tax from 2.5% to 3.0% in the year 2023.



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EXCITEMENT AS PRESIDENT TINUBU INAUGURATES TETFUND PROJECTS ACROSS NIGERIA

BY AMOS ANETEKHAI

The commissioning of projects funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in public tertiary educational institutions in the country continued in the last quarter of 2023 with the inauguration of several iconic structures by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

The President who was represented by members of his cabinet and other top government functionaries at the epoch-making events in different Beneficiary Institutions across the country expressed delight at the various projects which he said would further enhance teaching and learning and improve academic standards in the institutions.

While commending the efforts of TETFund in effectively discharging its mandate, President Tinubu assured that his administration would continue to provide necessary support towards making Nigerian educational institutions globally competitive for economic and technological development of the country.

Similarly, the National Assembly under the leadership of the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas has stated that it would continue to provide necessary support to TETFund through the enactment of legislations that would further advance tertiary education in Nigeria.

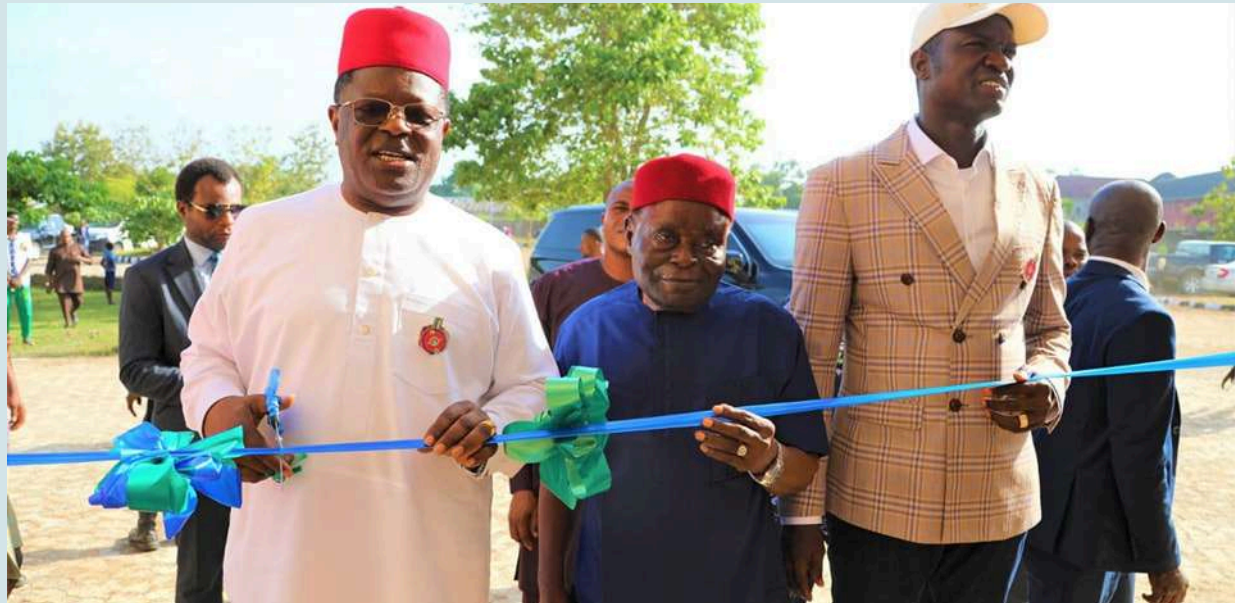
The position of the 10th Assembly was made known by some federal lawmakers who also participated in the inauguration exercise.

The lawmakers expressed excitement that since the enactment of the TETFund Act in 2011, the Fund has performed exceptionally 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.

At the Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, where President Tinubu was represented by the Minister of Works, Senator David Umahi, it was an atmosphere of great excitement for the university community and other stakeholders in the state as three projects worth over N1.5 billion were inaugurated. The three projects are the ICT Complex, Faculty of Education Building and Library Complex.

Speaking at the event, Governor Francis Nwifuru of Ebonyi State who came alongside Senator Umahi commended the Federal Government and TETFund for the provision of the projects in the University. He applauded the Fund’s commitment towards diligence in project execution, saying that it was the right way to go in showing effectiveness and efficiency in the use of taxpayers’ money.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Technical Matters, Mallam Buhari Mikailu applauded the management of the university for its developmental efforts.



The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun was at the University of Ibadan and The Polytechnic Ibadan where he commissioned projects worth over N650 million and N1 billion respectively.

The projects are the Department of Architecture building, Faculty of Technology Building at the University of Ibadan, and Faculty of Business and Communication Studies Building, Faculty of Financial Management Studies Building and Faculty of Science Building at The Polytechnic, Ibadan.



In Gombe State, 11 projects valued at over N4.5 billion were commissioned by the Minister of Transportation, Alhaji Sa’idu Alkali at Gombe State University.

The projects included the Faculty of Education Building; Faculty of Arts Building; Faculty of Social and Management Sciences Building and Faculty of Law Building.

Others are 250 capacity Drama Theatre; University Clinic; Female Hostels III and IV and a Fire Station among others.

Speaking at the event, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State commended the good works being carried out by TETFund and expressed his commitment to partner with the Fund for infrastructural development of the university.

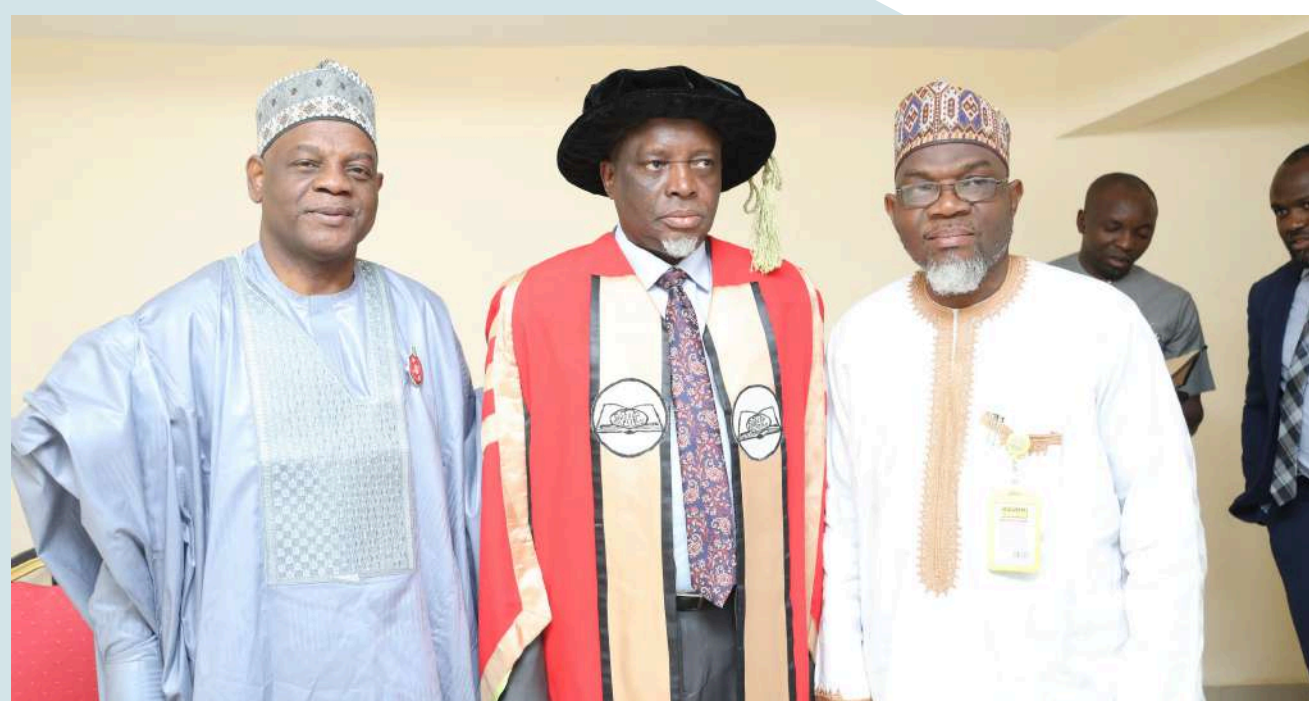
Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono stated that since the creation of the university in 2004, and its enlistment as one of the Fund's beneficiary institutions in 2006, over 15 billion Naira has been invested in the institution at various times for various projects.



The Kwara State University, Malete (KWASU) played host to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono who commissioned three projects namely the Senate Building, the College of Engineering Workshop Extension and the Centre for Sustainable Energy Building.

Arc. Echono revealed that TETFund's interventions to KWASU commenced in 2010 and a total sum of N12,681,599,496.67 has been allocated for infrastructure-related interventions, cutting across the Annual, Special and Zonal interventions in the university.

Projects worth N873.6 million were commissioned in both Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) and Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic (ATAP) in Bauchi State.



A total of seven projects were commissioned in the two institutions in November, 2023; four of which are in the Gubi Campus of ATBU and three at the Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic.

Speaking at the commissioning, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Maitama Tuggar stated that the intervention projects were part of conscious efforts by the present administration to address students' challenges and create industrial harmony between staff unions and government.

Also in Bauchi State, a library project was inaugurated at Bauchi State University by Hon. Aliyu Bappa Misau, Member, House Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono who was represented by the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Fund, Arc. Olajide Babatunde stated that from 2012 to date, TETFund had allocated the sum of N17,336,446,369.32 for infrastructure-related interventions only.



The Senator representing Osun East Senatorial District, Senator Francis Fadahunsi was at Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke, Osun State for the commissioning of a 600-seater capacity auditorium and block of offices valued at N361,232,123.88.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono was represented by Mr. Okunlola Kolapo, Director, Human Resource and General Administration who implored the management of the institution to take advantage of the facilities and make adequate use of them for the educational and vocational development of the students.



From Ogun State, an array of projects worth over N2 billion was inaugurated at the Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Tai Solarin College of Education (TASCE), and the Federal College of Education (FCE), Abeokuta.

The commissioning was carried out by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Olamilekan Adeola who was represented by a former Commissioner for Agriculture in Ogun state, Prof. Tope Popoola.

The projects executed at FUNAAB was valued at N1.1 billion, while those at TASCE and FCE Abeokuta cost N1 billion and N484 million respectively.

The Federal Polytechnic, Oko was also not left out of the commissioning exercises in the last quarter of 2023 as the Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum (Down Stream), Senator Ifeanyi Ubah inaugurated two TETFund-sponsored projects, the Male and Female Hostels worth N550 million.

Also from the South East Zone, six projects worth over N2.8 billion were commissioned at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka by the Deputy speaker, Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, who was represented by Hon. Princess Chinwe Nnabuife, a member of the House of Representatives.

With the continuous unveiling of completed TETFund projects by the Federal Government, more facilities are being made available for use by lecturers, researchers, administrative staff and the teeming students of public tertiary institutions in Nigeria.



TETFund Plans Deployment of Digital Blackboard Technology to Improve Delivery of Education

by Ishowo Oluwatosin & Saadatu Salihu

In a bid to leverage on the global Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology trend, the Federal Government of Nigeria received a delegation of Anthology, a leading technology company that offers Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS) to boost delivery of instructional and educational process in Nigeria. This was revealed by the President of Anthology, Joe Balenardo during a courtesy call to the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman (SAN).

The President stated that the team is committed to making education better in the country while adding innovation and tools that will strengthen processes, data and engagements in the sector. Balenardo equally added the partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria will enhance innovation and provide global access to learning and research materials via the learning management system.

He explained that “The Blackboard LMS currently houses about 6,000 clients and over 150 million students across the globe and is designed to create additional solutions and innovations, access to networks and give business development opportunities for learners. Many institutions around the world started a transformation to accelerate their digital journey for the great benefit of their learners. “

The Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, while receiving the delegation in his office said the partnership is a wonderful opportunity to shape education and with the support of the TETFund, Blackboard technology will make much difference in curriculum and behavioural delivery in tertiary institutions.

According to Mamman “The Blackboard platform would ensure easy access to online academic resources and address the limitation of the physical capacity of learning and the inability to access credible learning materials. I pledge to support relevant policies that would facilitate the progress of the Blackboard project in the country.

I am a firm believer of technology; I believe in the efficacy of what we can use technology to achieve. We are at the beginning of a major reform in the education sector, from the basic to tertiary levels. We know that physical capacity is a limiting factor, but through IT, you can reach practically everybody, and we are determined to do it”.

Speaking earlier, the Executive of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono who led the delegation to the Federal Ministry of Education stated that the Blackboard platform will ensure events such as COVID-19 whose impact won't be forgotten any time soon will no longer catch the country unaware and cripple learning activities in the country. He expressed that the learning management system would accommodate around 2.2 million users in Nigeria across the 253 beneficiary institutions of the Fund. He as well disclosed plans to enrol private institutions on the platform to further expand the number of users to over 3 million.



Reacting to concerns on the AI features of the platform and its potential threat to learning integrity and human creativity, the TETFund boss registered that AI is a fast global trend, and on area of technology, Nigeria is currently a decade behind countries like Saudi Arabia. Thus, it is crucial to focus on policy regulation on the use of AI, promote academic integrity, advocate for limitations of its usage in certain tasks and employ anti-plagiarism checkers that can identify contents that are not original.

TETFAIR: Dandutse Commends TETFund for National Development Strides

by Maria Joseph

Research for Impact (R4i)

Initiative

9.0/23



The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, Senator Muntari Dandutse has commended the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for its efforts towards the economic and technological development of the country, through giant strides in research and innovation in public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria.

Senator Dandutse spoke at the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) Showcase and Closing Event held in December at Innov8 Hub, Abuja.

Speaking on the TETFAIR initiative, the Senate Committee Chairman who also was the Chairman of the event stated that the programme has helped in facilitating greater partnership between researchers and the industry.

“Through the TETFAIR initiative, the nation has witnessed collaborative efforts between academia, industry, and government agencies, leading to the development of groundbreaking technologies, new medical advancements, and innovative social solutions which has positioned Nigeria as a force to reckon with in the global research community,” he said.

Furthermore, Senator Dandutse stated that TETFAIR has significantly contributed in the areas of renewable energy, agriculture, and healthcare, telecommunications and other crucial sectors which have led to the development of national development goals and improvement of the quality of life of citizens and have also successfully fostered the exchange of knowledge and expertise between Nigerian researchers and their international counterparts.

He applauded the researchers and the stakeholders who contributed to the success story of TETFAIR through dedication and commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and innovation in tertiary institutions. He urged them to reflect on the process and identify areas for further support and improvement.



Senator Dandutse assured that his committee would support initiatives that are capable of promoting the nation’s education and economic development. He also stated that the government will continue to invest in research and development, create an enabling environment for innovation and encourage collaboration among researchers, industries and government agencies.

In his remarks, the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Yusuf Sununu described the event as timely for Nigeria which is in dire need of technological innovations to solve challenges bedeviling the country. He said this shows that Nigerians have the capacity and knowledge if given the opportunity.

He commended the management of the Fund for its relentless efforts in making sure that the public tertiary institution were gaining grounds through technological research development and innovations. He also called on TETFund to work towards stepping up protection of copyright ownership of the innovators.

Dr. Sununu stated that the Ministry of Education will continue to ensure that educational institutions translate research findings into tangible innovations useful for economic prosperity and called for greater collaboration between the academia, industry and other stakeholders to ensure the marketability of the products.



PROBLEM - SOLVING
RESEARCH

DISTRIBUTION OF ALLOCATION LETTERS TO
TETFund BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS



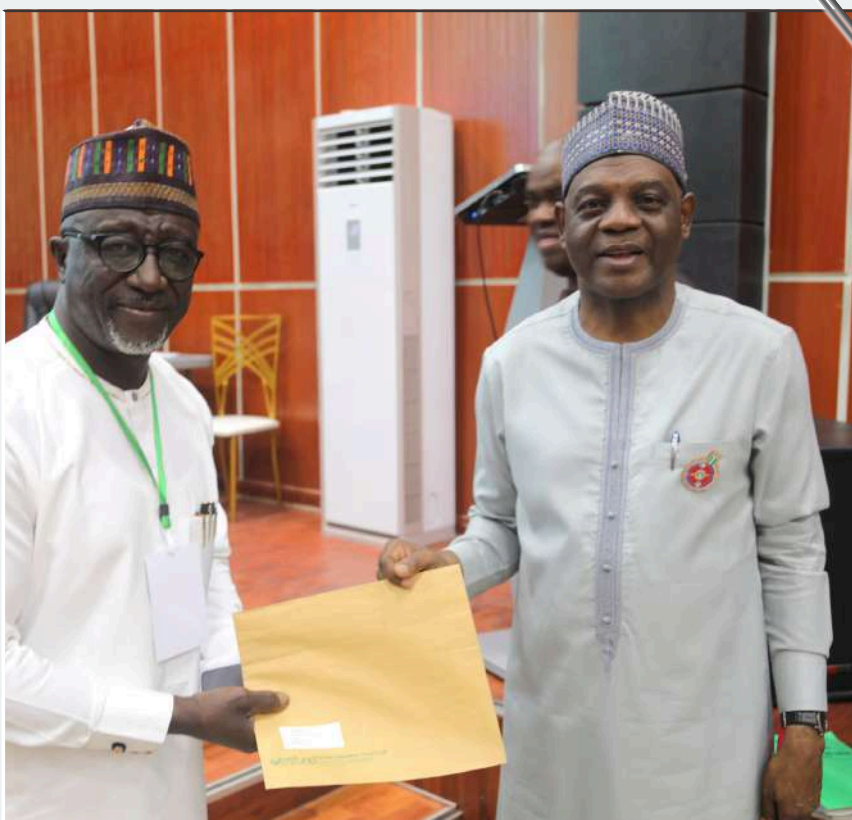
precision



consolidation



Balance

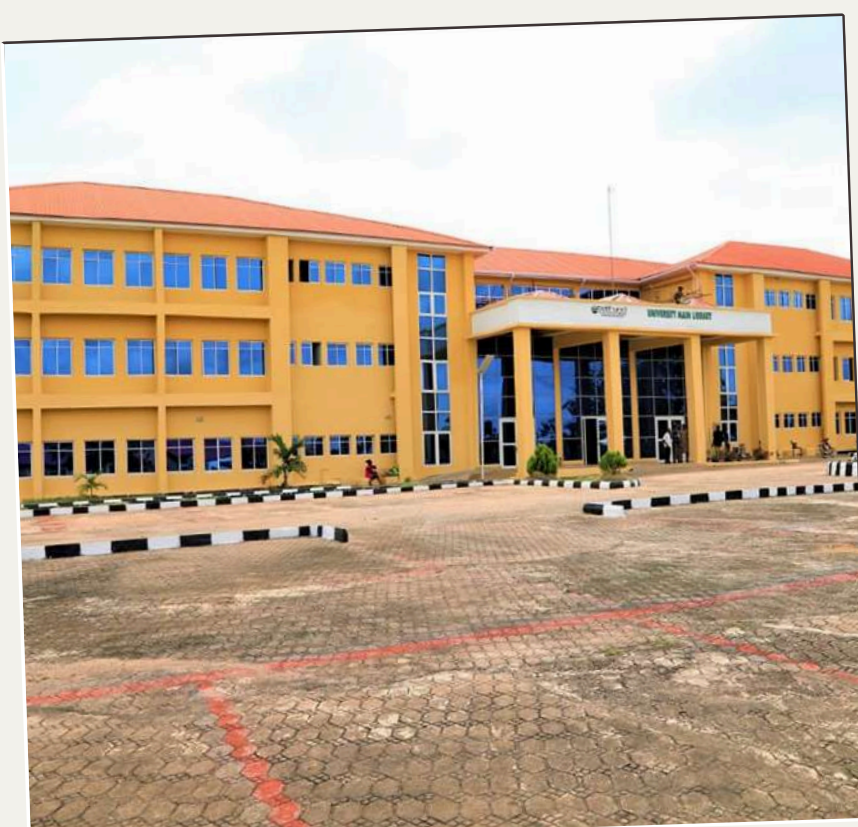
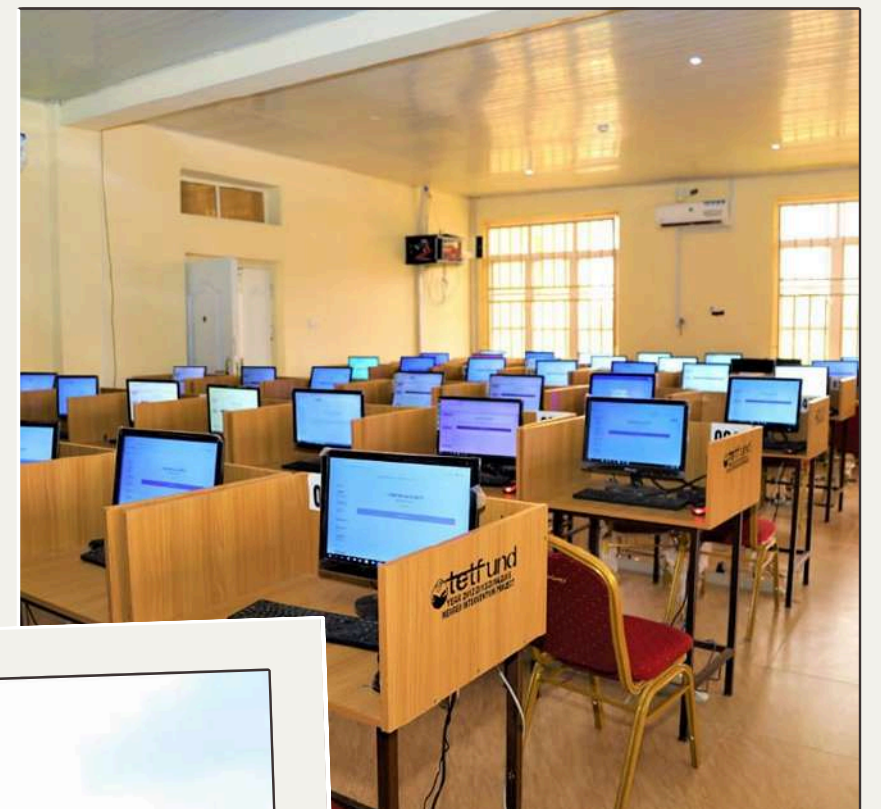
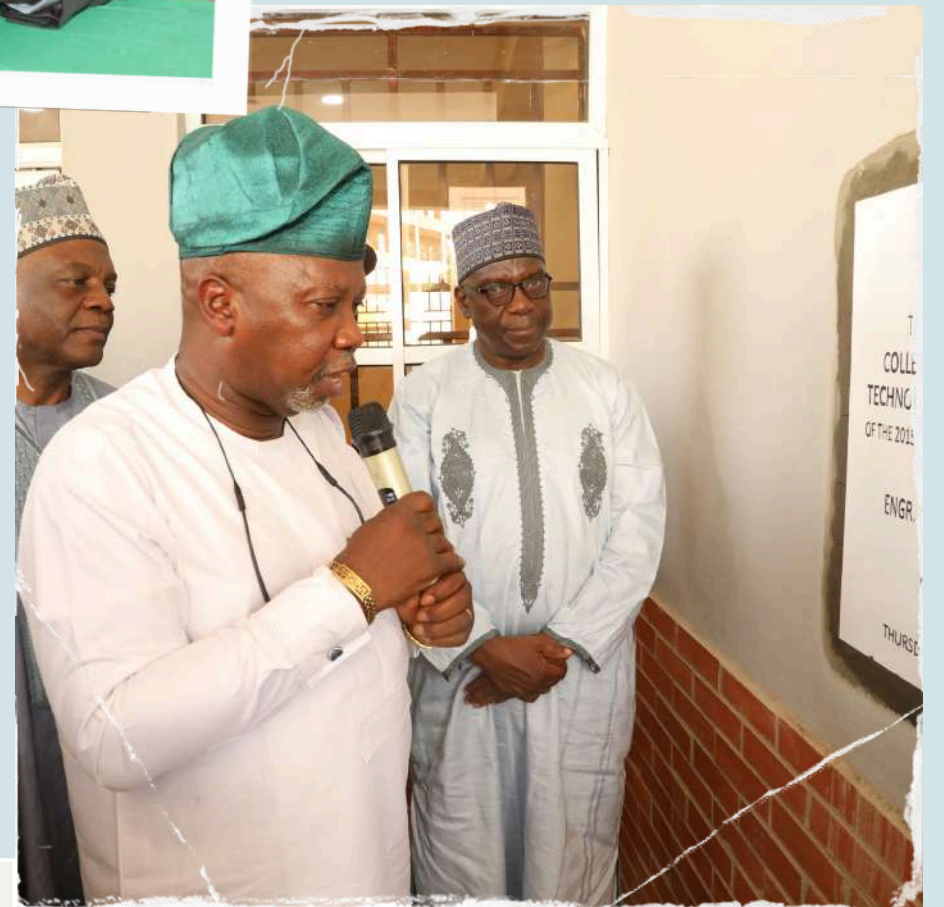


inclusiveness

accountability

Kwara State
University,
Malete

COMMISSIONING OF TETFund PROJECTS

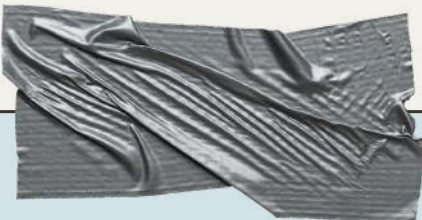
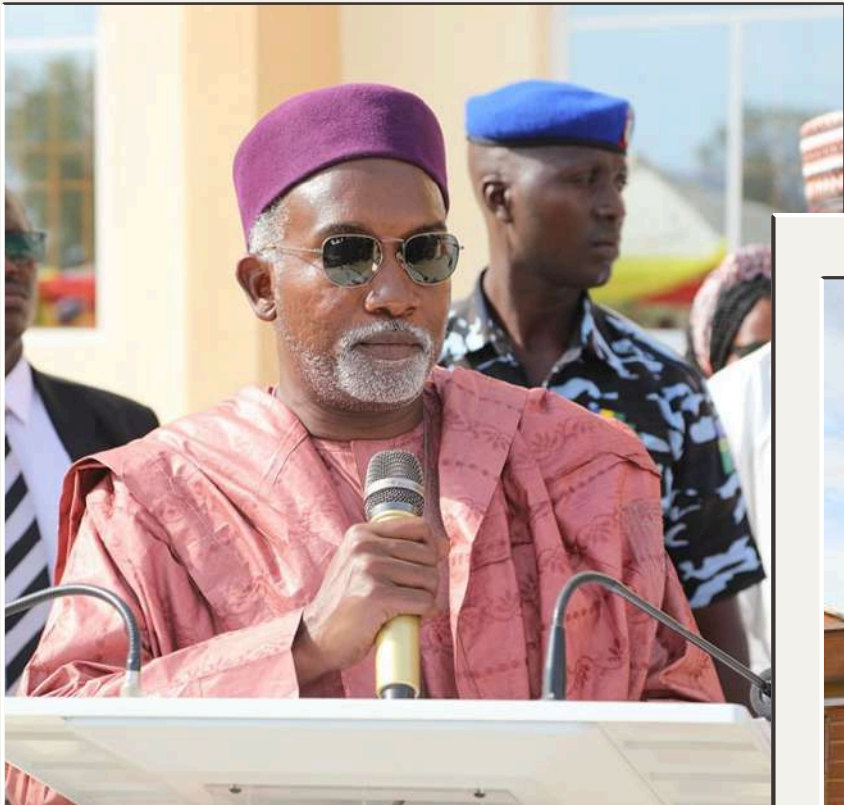


Ebonyi State
University

COMMISSIONING OF TETFund
PROJECTS



ABUBAKAR TATARI ALI
POLYTECHNIC



COMMISSIONING OF TETFund
PROJECTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN AND POLYTECHNIC IBADAN



ATBU, BAUCHI



COMMISSIONING OF TETFund
PROJECTS

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA



NNAMDI AZIKWE UNIVERSITY, AWKA



TAI SOLARIN UNIVERSITY OF
EDUCATION & FEDERAL
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION,
OSIELE.



Graduate Employability: TETFund to Implement IFC Recommendation

BY MARIA JOSEPH



The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) is set to implement recommendations from the Graduate Employability Benchmark programme conducted in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to reduce unemployment rate in Nigeria.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono disclosed this in Abuja recently during a two-day Implementation Support Workshop for the programme.

Speaking on the report of the IFC on Nigerian institutions, Arc. Echono stated that the outcome indicated that the aggregate average score of Nigerian benchmark institutions across the five dimensions of employability viz: relevance of learning, governance and strategy, employer engagement, career services/guidance, and alumni management stood at 2.3 out of 4.0, a little above 2.2 which represents the average of institutions benchmarked globally.

The Executive Secretary further stated that the institutions' digital learning strategy as shown from the report also indicated that they did not meet up with global best practices in the application of digital learning strategies; and the development required deliberate action from all stakeholders to address peculiar challenges facing Nigerian tertiary institutions to enhance the employability of Nigerian graduates.

While stating that TETFund was deliberately refocusing its intervention activities to support learning outcomes and employability of Nigerian graduates, Arc. Echono announced the approval of the Federal Ministry of Education for a Strategic and Operational Plan to refocus TETFund entrepreneurship intervention for employability and innovation.

Speaking on the IFC recommendations, Arc. Echono said "The Fund will be organizing a capacity-building programme for career unit staff in the universities designed to empower the staff and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students towards gaining the skill set to find and sustain meaningful employment.

"IFC recommendations will enhance employment opportunities, and performance, and increase career options for young graduates," he added.

He affirmed TETFund's commitment to implementing the recommendation from the employability benchmark exercise as it will ultimately improve graduate employability and reduce the high unemployment rate in Nigeria.

Speaking at the event, the Senior Operation Officer of IFC, Mr. Dina Nicholas stated that research conducted in Africa revealed that graduate employability in Nigeria was 12.1% compared to South Africa with over 24%.

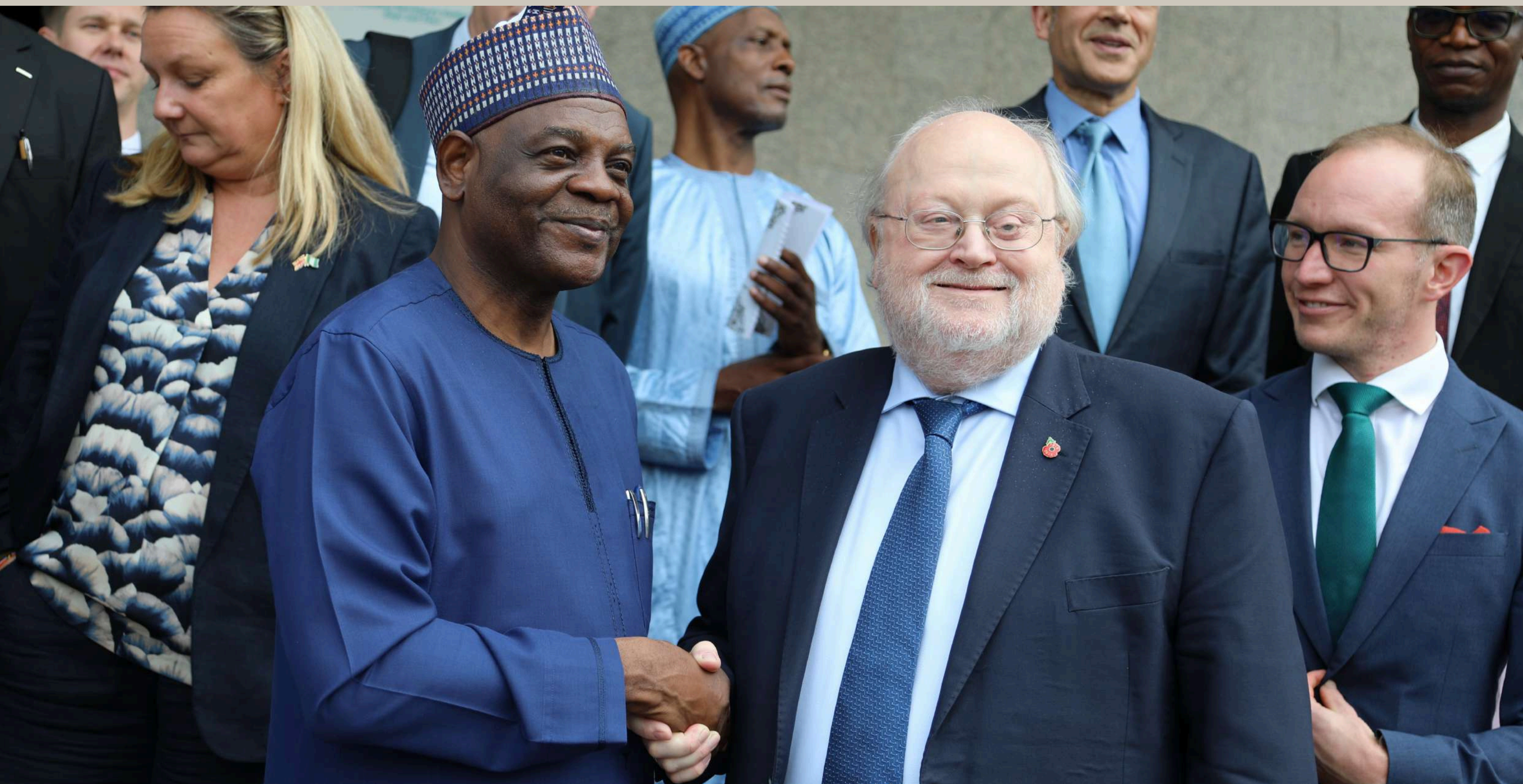
He, therefore, advised universities to keep track of their graduates, promote alumnus bodies to foster development and networking, and also deploy additional efforts towards academia and industry partnership.

IFC EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME



Nigeria, UK Intensify Educational Partnerships

By Ishowo Oluwatosin & Saadatu Salihu



As part of efforts towards further strengthening educational partnerships between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, a British delegation comprising heads of universities has paid a courtesy visit to TETFund.

The delegation which was led by the UK Government International Education Champion, Sir Steve Smith was at the TETFund office to discuss areas of mutual cooperation and partnerships between the UK Government and Nigerian varsities.

Speaking at the meeting, Sir Smith stated that there are policy schedules between the UK and Nigerian universities where there would be series of speed dating sessions and discussions on areas of mutual interest.

He added that the target was to meet about 40 institutions for partnership on key areas of regulation to foster uninterrupted collaboration, emphasizing that the UK intends to work closely with TETFund for mutual benefit.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono disclosed that partnerships have always been at the center of the relationship between the delegation and the Fund.

Arc. Echono noted that improving facilities in Universities, Polytechnics, and Colleges of Education in Nigeria would attract international faculties and students, while adding that the collaboration with UK institutions will focus on skill development for Nigerian institutions.

While stating that the Fund has sponsored several scholars to UK universities, he lamented the failure of some of the scholars to return to Nigeria to serve their bond.

“It is through a partnership like this that scholars who refuse to come home will be made to come back to render their services; because it is discouraging to see many of them stay abroad after they have concluded their studies. With this partnership, we can bring them back home,” he said.

Arc. Sonny Echono added that collaborations with UK institutions is crucial to navigating the challenges facing Nigerian institutions, and will also help in promoting skill acquisition, research, and innovation especially as the Fund has commenced efforts towards the establishment of Multipurpose Laboratories in some selected tertiary institutions across geo-political zones.

This, he said would enable Nigeria to explore many areas of research and halt the previous culture of transporting research samples for testing and assessment abroad.

TETFund Plans for Multipurpose Laboratories, As Committee Presents Report

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN & SAADATU SALIHU

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has thrown its weight behind the establishment of Multipurpose Laboratories with a view to sustaining the tempo of deepening research and development in the country.

This is coming on the heels of presentation of report by the Committee on Establishment of Multipurpose Laboratory led by its chairman and former Vice-Chancellor of University of Ibadan, Professor Olufemi Bamiro, to the Minister of Education; Prof. Tahir Mamman and the Management of TETFund.

Recall that the committee was inaugurated on 25th September 2023 by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono who stated that it was important to work conscientiously to develop human capital and provide infrastructure to support research and development.

According to the Chairman of the Committee, Prof. Olufemi Bamiro, the team worked committedly for six weeks to ensure models and frameworks were designed in order to ensure that the laboratories function effectively for problem solving.

He revealed that during the committee’s planning session, so many factors and criteria were considered for the siting of the facility such as proximity to other tertiary institutions and industries. He hinted that all Universities in Nigeria were assessed, however, members of the committee noted that the history of institutions, infrastructure, availability of land, and other facilities needed for the smooth



operation of the laboratories should play critical role in the decision-making process of the committee.

The Chairman disclosed that over 200 institutions belonging to both Federal and State Government across all regions in the country were evaluated and ranked. University of Ibadan, Oyo State and Bayero University Kano ranked highest in their respective regions, being among the first generation of universities in the country.

The presentation also revealed that the team has designed framework that would make it possible for the facility to thrive, such as autonomy, an organogram for smooth administration, governance, funding, maintenance as well as training because of the sophisticated nature of required equipment.

The committee equally emphasized that deep collaboration and partnership with development partners internally and externally such as government, internally generated revenue capacity, research grants, International Corporation, private sectors, Sustainable Development Goals, and funding are crucial to the success of the laboratories.



Responding, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono commended the committee for their commitment to the assignment on behalf of the Minster of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman. He equally announced that the Fund may consider increasing the number of the proposed multipurpose laboratories from two to four, in order to have more representation and spread in the country.

He stressed further that the management of TETFund appreciates the committee for going beyond the terms of reference, by creating detailed proposals on governance and administrative structure, as well as considering issues around sustainability.

Echono reiterated the Fund’s commitment to actualizing the project at the shortest time possible in order to speedily transform the research and development landscape in the country.

TETFAIR CLOSING CEREMONY



PHOTOSPEAK

UK TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

COURTESY CALL

PHOTOSPEAK



TETFund PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

By Maria Joseph

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has pledged support for persons living with disabilities to ensure better access to education.

The Executive Secretary of the Fund, Arc. Sonny Echono made the pledge when the leadership of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities paid a courtesy call on him at the Fund's office in Abuja.

Arc. Echono expressed TETFund's commitment towards supporting the activities of the Commission and pledged that the Fund would also ensure that its Beneficiary Institutions develop plans to build infrastructure that would accommodate persons with disabilities in their institutions, in compliance with subsisting regulations.

"For Nigeria to achieve inclusive education and harness all the potentials and resources in the country, there is a need for total compliance to the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 that prohibited discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

"We will ensure that the institutions have plans to build infrastructure that will accommodate persons with disabilities," he said.

The Executive Secretary revealed that the Fund has already factored persons living with disabilities into its intervention schemes as Beneficiary Institutions have been notified to incorporate them as a priority in their programmes.

He stated that although the Fund has commenced review on sponsorship of foreign training, the Fund would be willing to make an exception where persons with disabilities are concerned.

Earlier in his remarks, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Mr. James David Lalu expressed appreciation to TETFund for its consideration for persons living with disabilities in the discharge of its mandate.

While expressing the great desire to gain higher education in the disability community, Mr. Lalu noted that most persons with disabilities have had to change their course of study due to lack of accessible infrastructure that allows for inclusiveness in our learning institutions, as most of them do not have access slopes for persons on wheelchairs and or walkways for the visually impaired.



He said the Commission has developed an accessibility standard document that would aid compliance with building codes across higher Institutions in Nigeria, adding that the document has necessary specifications and dimensions to make public infrastructure inclusive for persons with disabilities.

Mr. Lalu requested for support for the provision of Assistive Devices and Technology to enable them carry out daily activities and participate actively in learning. He noted the device has a storage capacity of up to 350 copies of electronic books.

He also solicited for scholarships and adequate training for lecturers of persons with disabilities. Specifically, he pleaded with the Fund to collaborate with foreign institutions that offer special courses in Disability Inclusion Education, where they could be trained.





COURTESY CALL BY THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES



TETFund LIVING UP TO EXPECTATION – SSANU

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) has commended the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for living up to expectations in the discharge of its mandate,

The SSANU President, Comrade Mohammed Haruna Ibrahim stated this when he led a delegation of the union on a courtesy visit to the leadership of TETFund in Abuja recently.

Comrade Ibrahim stated that the visit was to identify with the giant strides and successes recorded by the Agency in the development of public tertiary education in the country.

“Our visit here is to identify with the giant strides of TETFund. We are not surprised because of the leadership acumen of its Chief Executive, Arc. Sonny Echono. TETFund’s role in our universities cannot be over-emphasized and we can all bear witness to this. TETFund has been living up to its expectations; without TETFund, most of our tertiary institutions will be glorified secondary schools. There is literally no structure in our universities that is standing without TETFund,” he said.

The President also used the opportunity to register some of the concerns affecting members of the Association who belong to various university communities in the country. According to him, non-teaching staff are policy drivers in tertiary institutions, and while they may not teach, they assist in administration and coordination which are crucial to a university’s expansion and development.

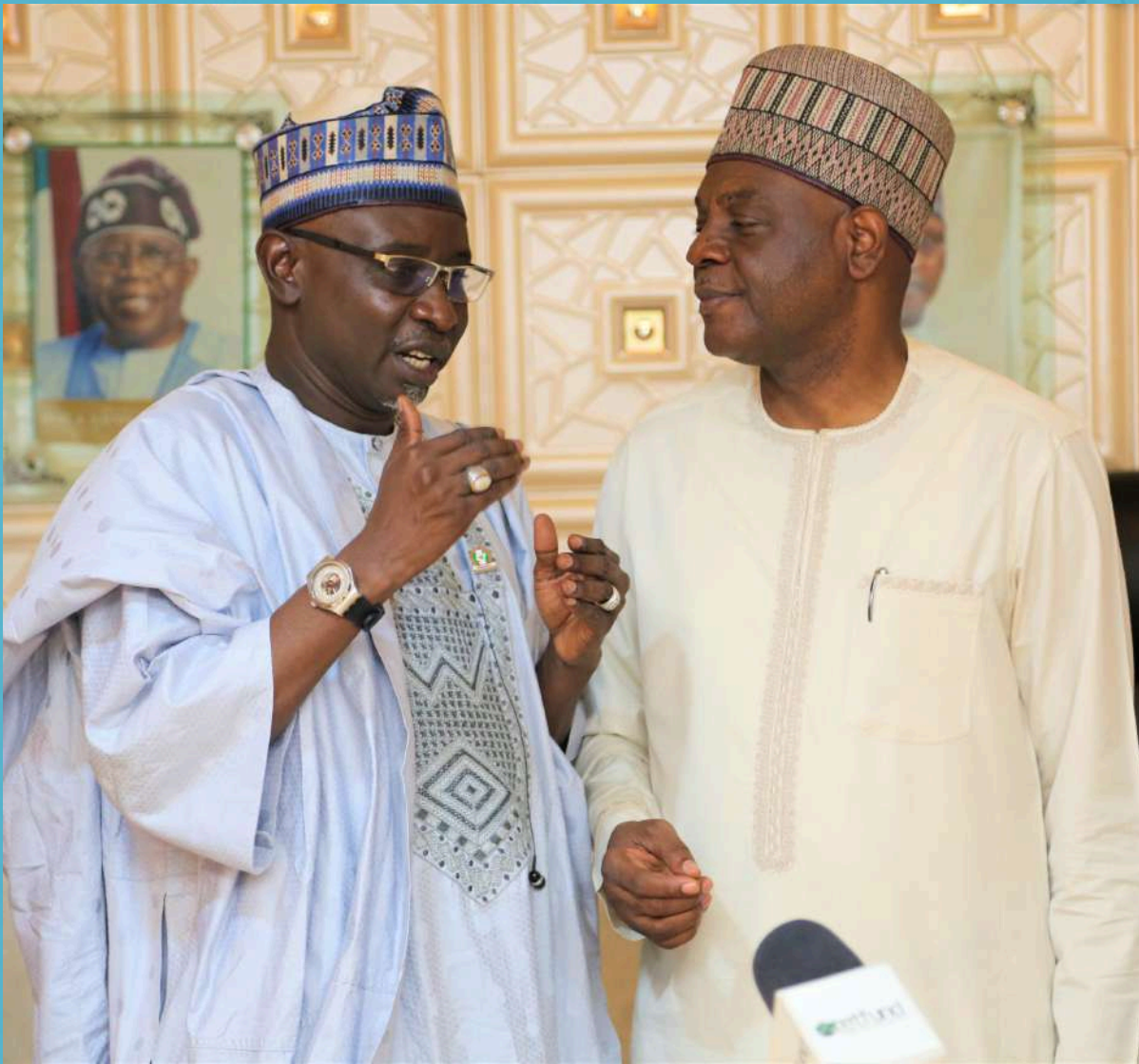
The President also used the opportunity to register some of the concerns affecting members of the Association who belong to various university communities in the country. According to him, non-teaching staff are policy drivers in tertiary institutions, and while they may not teach, they assist in administration and coordination which are crucial to a university’s expansion and development.

He further stressed that training non-teaching staff is paramount because ignoring them will amount to taking a step forward and two backwards. He lamented that in most universities, members of the Association have been relegated, and unfairly treated by Heads of Institutions who introduced a formula of 70/30 on training of personnel in universities. He described such arrangement as detrimental to capacity building which is meant to be of benefit to universities in their administration and coordination.

“We believe in your leadership to reposition and redefine these arrangements. Our members are sidelined; we don’t get access to training, conferences, and academic development. We are advocating for a semblance of democracy where scales can be balanced on training,” the President said.

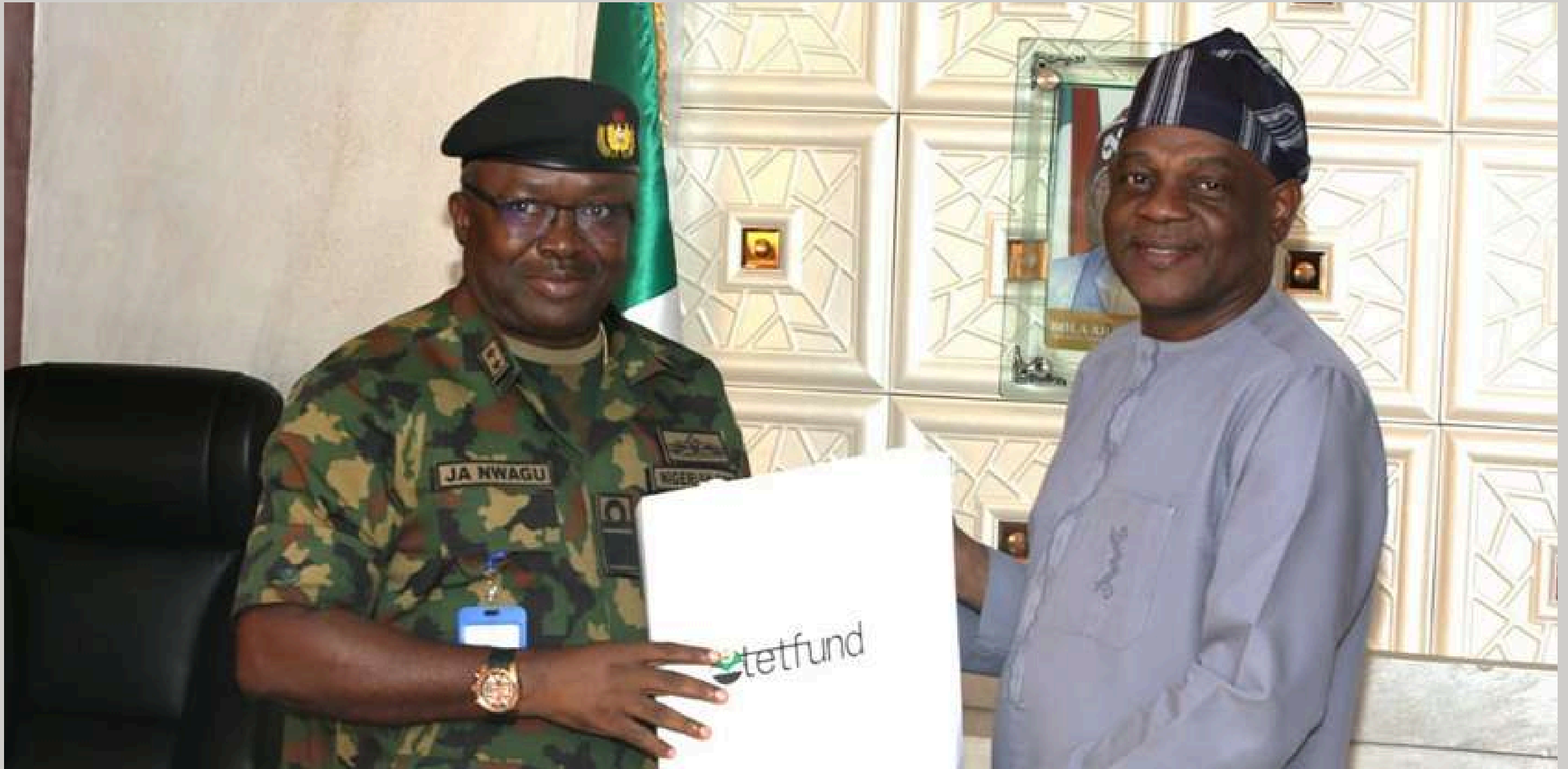
In his response, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono assured that the matter will be collectively addressed, and the Fund will lead the charge for better and improved benefits to all arms of tertiary institutions as all stakeholders are vital to the Fund towards achieving the mandate of TETFund.

According to the Executive Secretary, “Although resources are scarce and interests are compounding, within what we have, we will ensure balancing so that all areas can effectively function; all staff are important.”



Defence Intelligence College Seeks Support in ICT

BY MARIA JOSEPH



The Defence Intelligence College (DIC), Karu has requested for the support of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in the provision of ICT infrastructure in the College.

Commandant of the College, Rear Admiral J.A. Nwagu made the request when he met with the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja recently.

Speaking at the event, Rear Admiral Nwagu expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the audience.

He stated that the purpose of the visit was to seek collaboration with the Fund in the training of TETFund staff charged with the responsibility of record keeping and also to seek support in the provision of ICT infrastructure in the College.

The Commandant noted that the College is not restricted to training of defense intelligence staff only, but also train other security agencies.

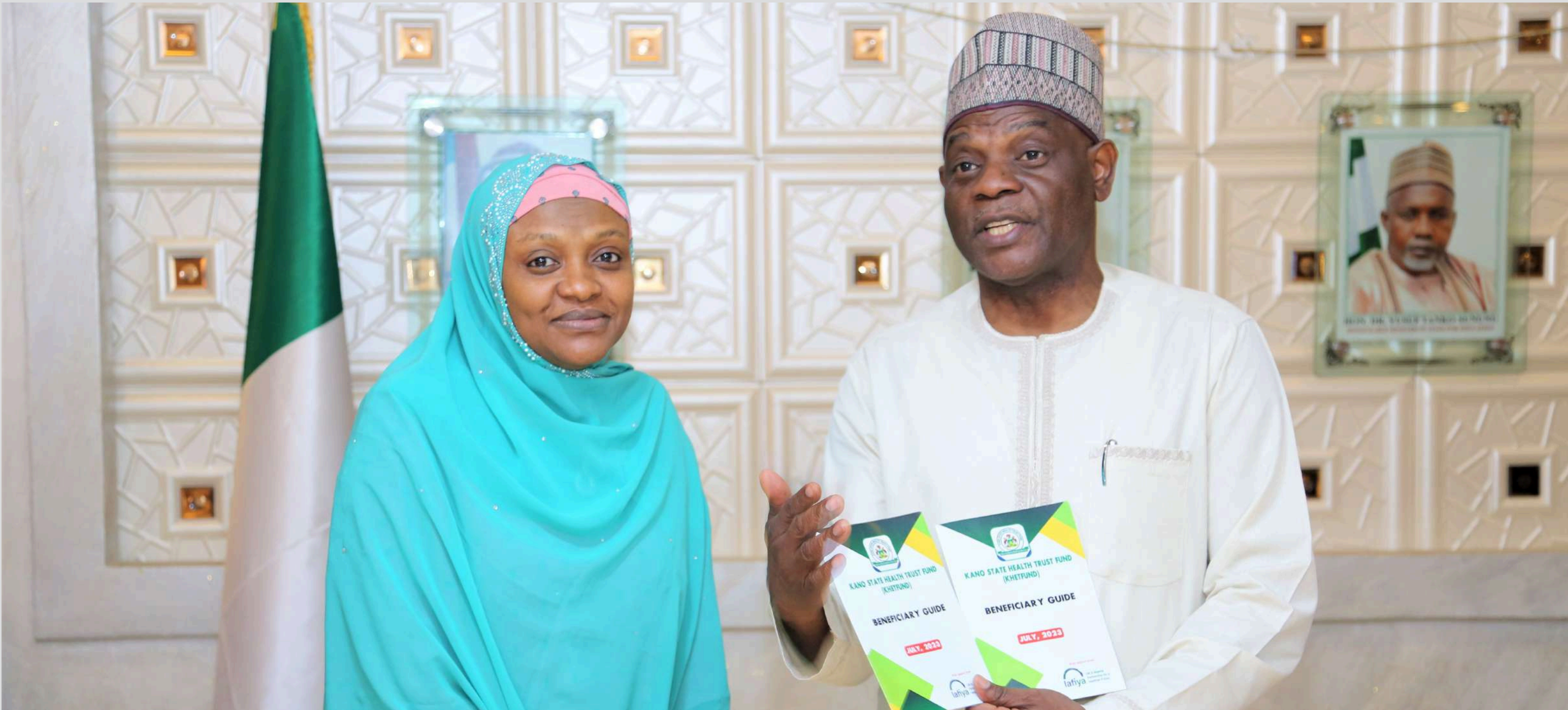
Speaking during the visit, the Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono expressed his pleasure for the visit and commended the college for extending the training to non-security staff.

He stated that the Fund would evaluate the College structure to see areas that falls within the Funds' mandate where collaboration and support could be extended.

He also added that the Fund would be glad to sponsor some of its staff to benefit from the training offered by the College.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE: KANO HEALTH TRUST FUND, TETFund EXCHANGE IDEAS FOR ENHANCED DELIVERY



BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN

The Management of Kano State Health Trust Fund (KHETFUND) have met with the leadership of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), to study the TETFund model which has been adjudged by various stakeholders as the key to the revitalization of public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria.

The Permanent Secretary of Kano State Ministry of Health, Hajiya Amina Musa and Executive Secretary of KHEFUND, Dr. Fatima Usman Zahraddeen, alongside some officials of the agency were at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja on a two-day working visit, where they interacted with officials of TETFund who put them through the various intervention processes of the agency.

Speaking during the meeting, the Permanent Secretary stated that the visit was premised on understanding the model of administration in TETFund and domesticating relevant areas of shared processes and aspirations in Kano State for better delivery of the KHETFUND mandate.

Speaking in the same vein, the Executive Secretary of KHETFUND stated that she and her management were open to learning and improving the activities of the agency in order to enhance service delivery to stakeholders and beneficiaries.

According to her, "Our visit is to find out the process in which TETFund delivers its mandate to its beneficiaries, whether it is digital or manual. While we understand that TETFund handles education and KHETFUND handles health, we share a lot of similarities in our delivery process and target audience".

According to Dr. Fatima, the major pool of KHETFUND's funding is the five percent (5%) derived from the Kano State internally generated revenue.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono commended the administration of Governor Abba Yusuf for continuing the good policies of his predecessor while noting that continuity of positive policies is needed for the national prosperity of the country.

Speaking on the mandates of the two agencies, Arc. Echono stated that “TETFund handles issues around infrastructure, research, book development, ICT, academic staff training and development. There are differences in services delivered - we handle education and KHETFUND handles health; however, some of our models and structure can aid the structuring of KHETFUND.”

“TETFUND HANDLES ISSUES AROUND INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH, BOOK DEVELOPMENT, ICT, ACADEMIC STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT”.



While noting that health is capital intensive, he advised that KHETFUND should not aim to solve all problems, but have a scope of delivery while capitalizing on strategic partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other development partners to address other key areas.

STAKEHOLDERS COLUMN



- ***My TETFund Research for Impact (R4i) Experience***

My TETFund Research for Impact (R4i) Experience

Diejomaoh Chowwe Lily
Federal Polytechnic, Orogun

I vividly remember the day I received the email, informing me of my nomination for the Research for Impact (R4i) initiative; it was a moment of excitement and anticipation, as I had never heard of R4i before. What truly ignited my enthusiasm was the promise of gaining insight into problem-solving, innovative research and development processes. I saw R4i as the key to satisfying my thirst for improving my research capabilities, and I couldn't wait to embark on the journey.

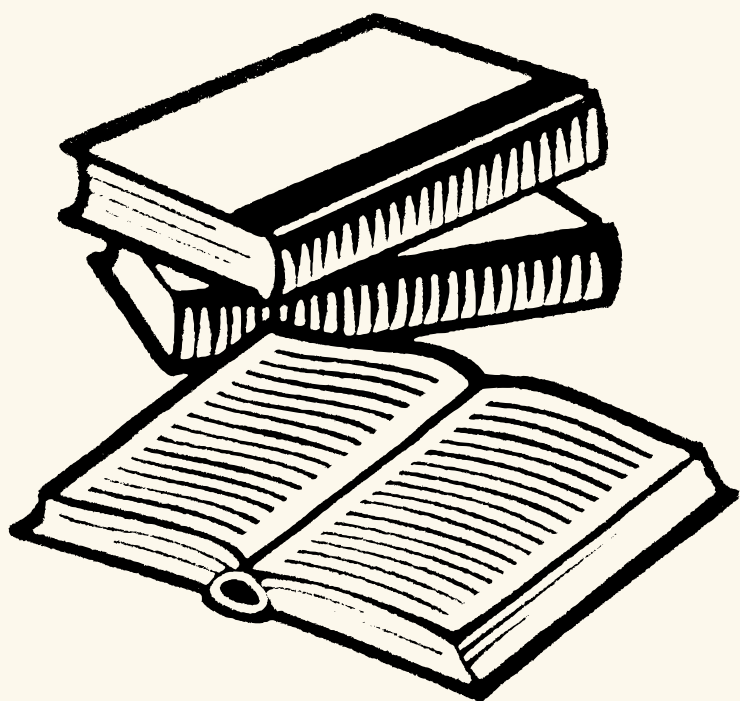
At the inspiring opening event, the purpose behind introducing the experts to us initially puzzled me, as I wondered about their roles in a research-based initiative; however, everything became clear as we embarked on an impressive tour of Innov8 Hub. It dawned on me that these Innov8 Hub experts would collaborate with us to develop our projects. The prospect of working closely with them and witnessing the intricate fabrication processes filled me with exhilaration.

The Hub's facility is a marvel. Each Impact Lab is impeccably equipped with state-of-the-art technology, and I couldn't help but notice the youthfulness and vibrancy of the experts. Witnessing young individuals operating sophisticated tools was eye-opening, especially in a country where most youths feel opportunities are scarce. The numerous prototypes of innovations developed at the Hub to enhance the lives of Nigerians, such as the E-Cube Solar Smart Village for remote medical consultations, education, water purification, farm irrigation and agri-tech left a profound impression on me.

My R4i experience at Innov8 Hub was transformative. The capacity-building on research commercialisation shattered my preconceived notion that research was solely about writing and publications. I learnt that research should bring financial value and contribute to making the world a better place. The classes on Emotional Intelligence helped me identify my weaknesses and provided insights on how to enhance my interpersonal relationships. As an academic with limited knowledge of business, I am immensely grateful for the capacity-building on entrepreneurship and intellectual property acquisition. Interactions with my fellow R4i participants exposed me to areas where I needed to grow. I realised these were seasoned professionals, with wealth of knowledge, experience and resources I could tap into. To my delight, they were more than willing to share their insights and expertise, fostering a sense of meaningful co-working and networking.



In conclusion, R4i has been a remarkable journey, surpassing my wildest expectations. It has opened my eyes to a world of opportunities and instilled in me the belief that I can achieve amazing things from the academia, through research. As I return home and to my duty post, I will carry with me a newfound sense of self-worth and a burning desire to contribute to positive change in the world and National Development in Nigeria. When I get back to my institution, I will definitely influence my students and colleagues on how to effectively carry out research by identifying problems and opportunities that will lead to innovative solutions.



My TETFund Research for Impact (R4i) Experience

Rukayat Oseni-Ogundipe
Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila –
Orangun



From the moment I received the invitation to participate in the Research for Impact Initiative, the anticipation and excitement that accompanied it was the beginning of an eye-opening adventure. My experience has been centred on the commercialisation of research, a theme that has ignited my curiosity and opened new horizons. The programme has equipped me with invaluable knowledge and skills, providing a roadmap to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world applications.

One of the key takeaways has been the importance of teamwork. R4i brought together a diverse group of individuals, each with unique expertise, and fostered an environment of synergy. Working with people from various backgrounds, I realised the power of teamwork in transforming innovative ideas into marketable products. This was a profound revelation that I will carry with me throughout my career.

The programme’s curriculum has been a treasure trove of insights into the commercialisation process in Research and Development. I learnt about intellectual property rights and protection, market research, problem exploration, concept development & ideation, prototype development, business development, public speaking and idea pitching. The icing on the cake for me was “Driving Innovation with Emotional Intelligence” whose principles can also be applied to my day-to-day activities while dealing with students, colleagues, friends and family. These concepts and knowledge, once foreign to me, have now become an integral part of my understanding of how research can be transformed into solution, products and viable ventures. The instructors, experts and mentors were instrumental in demystifying these complex concepts, making them accessible, understandable and applicable.

In addition to the knowledge, skill and capacity gained from R4i, the initiative provided an invaluable network of opportunities. I have had the privilege of connecting with professionals, academics and researchers from various institutions and organisations, thereby expanding my professional network and opening doors to potential collaborations and partnerships.

In conclusion, my R4i experience has given me the critical insight to navigate the complex landscape of research commercialisation. This eye-opening adventure has expanded my horizon, and I am excited to apply what I have learnt, in order to make a meaningful impact in the world of innovation and entrepreneurship. I am grateful to TETFund and Innov8 Hub for this initiative; I also appreciate my institution- the Federal University of Health Sciences, Ila – Orangun, Osun state, for giving me the opportunity to experience the Research for Impact initiative.



My TETFund Research for Impact (R4i) Experience

Segun Solomon Ogundapo, PhD
Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana, Ebonyi

Firstly, my experience underscored the need to embrace a problem-solving approach that goes beyond the boundaries of my academic training. Instead of merely relying on the knowledge and skills gained from my formal education, I learnt the value of looking at challenges from a wider perspective, integrating insights from diverse fields, and leveraging a holistic approach to finding solutions.

Secondly, my visit to the various Impact Labs, work stations and studio at Innov8 Hub was a revelation that shattered preconceived notions about the limitations of innovation in Nigeria. Witnessing first-hand the capabilities within these spaces, I realised that the boundaries I had set for myself and my expectations of what could be achieved in the country were simply mental constructs. My R4i experience was incredibly liberating. It did not only push me to think outside the conventional boundaries but also instilled in me the drive to dream bigger and envision possibilities without constraints.

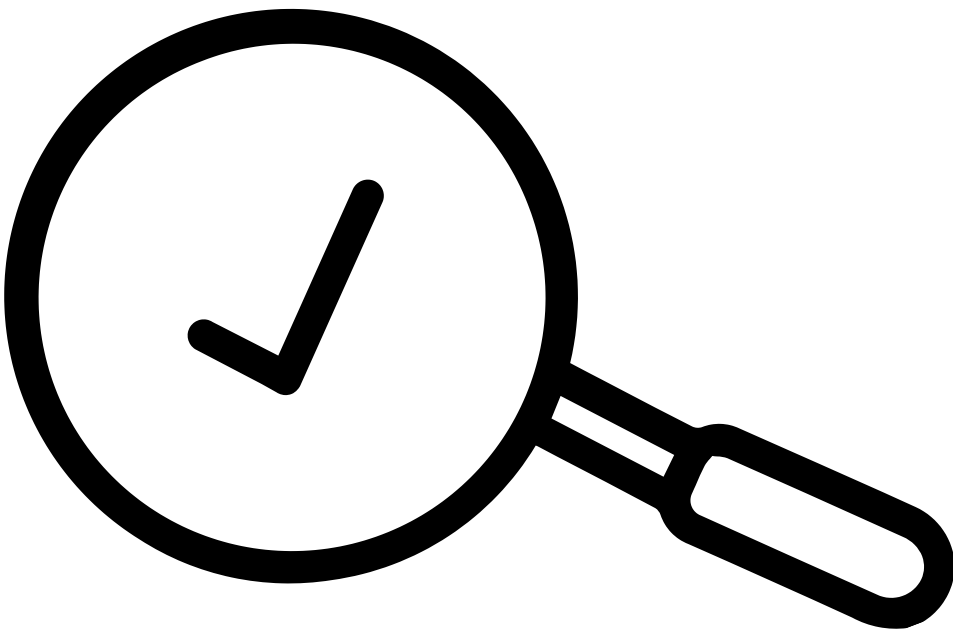
The Research for Impact initiative introduced me to a renewed approach to value-creation. Rather than beginning with an existing idea and seeking related problems, R4i emphasized first identifying key challenges, and then crafting tailored solutions. This method aligns closely with real-world demands and promotes innovation.

For me, this paradigm shift is pivotal in reshaping how I approach problem-solving and value generation. The diverse range of courses covered provided a rich tapestry of knowledge that was both enlightening and invigorating. The course on "Driving Innovation with Emotional Intelligence" delved into the often overlooked yet crucial aspect of innovation – the human element. It emphasised how understanding and managing emotions can be a powerful tool in the innovation process, enabling creators to connect more deeply with their target end-users and craft solutions that resonate on an emotional level.

The session on "How to Pitch a Startup" equipped me with invaluable insights into the art of presenting an entrepreneurship idea effectively. It underscored the importance of clarity, passion, and a deep understanding of the market, ensuring that potential investors and partners see the vision and potential of the startup. The Prototype Development Process capacity-building sessions offered a comprehensive view of how to bring an idea to life in its tangible form. This step-by-step breakdown of the journey from concept to prototype illuminated the iterative nature of design and the importance of feedback in refining a product.

Lastly, the Intellectual Property Protection training was particularly enlightening. It shed light on the intricacies of protecting one's innovations in the Nigerian context, revealing the safeguards available and the processes to ensure that one's hard work and creativity are shielded from infringement or theft. In totality, the courses were enlightening, offering profound insights that I will integrate into my future prospects.

As I depart from Innov8 Hub, I am deeply grateful to TETFund, Innov8 Hub and my institution that nominated me to participate in this initiative. The anticipation of what is next is exhilarating; it feels as if a new chapter of my life is just beginning, like I have been handed a fresh start!



HELLO!

*Let's build a better
tertiary education
sector together.*



@ TETFund



@ TETFund



@ TETFundNg

ECHONO AWARDED HONORARY FELLOWSHIP OF
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

BY MARIA JOSEPH

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc Sonny Echono has been conferred with an Associate Fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria, in recognition of his service to humanity.

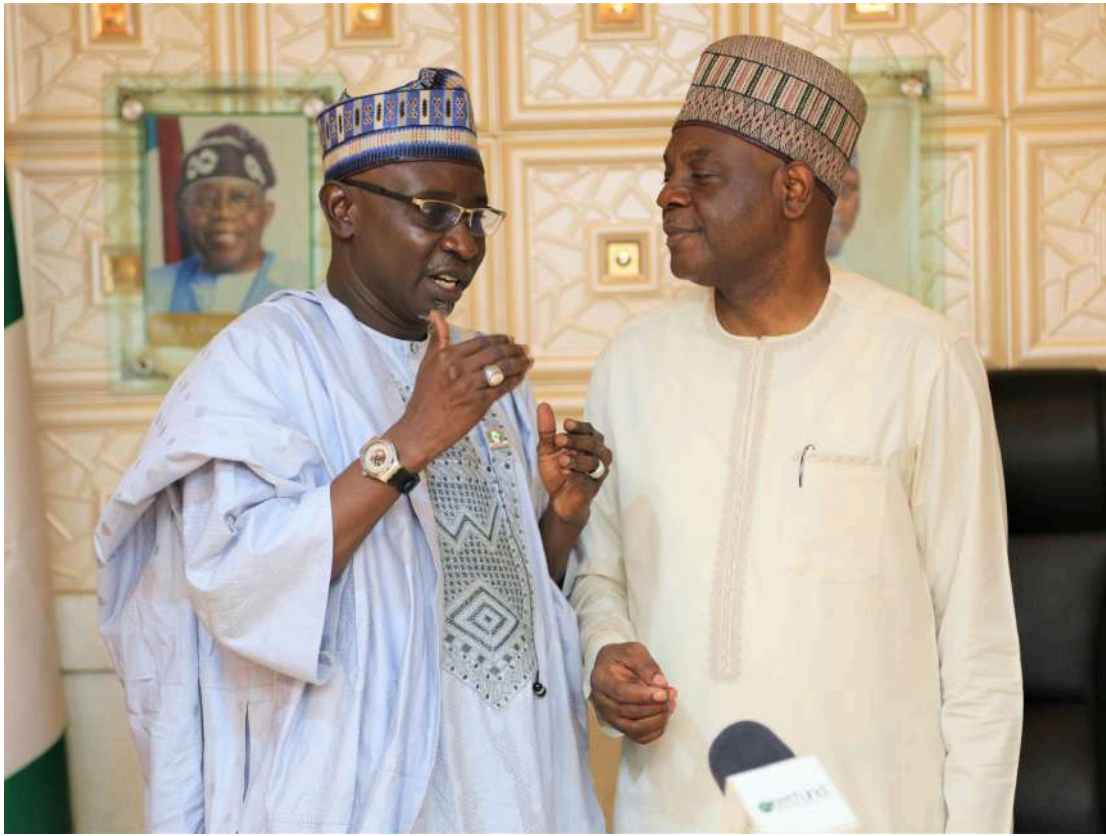
Receiving the award, the Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the Society for the honour, while commending it for patriotism and service to the Nation over the years. He assured the Society of his continuous dedication to the service of the nation and humanity.



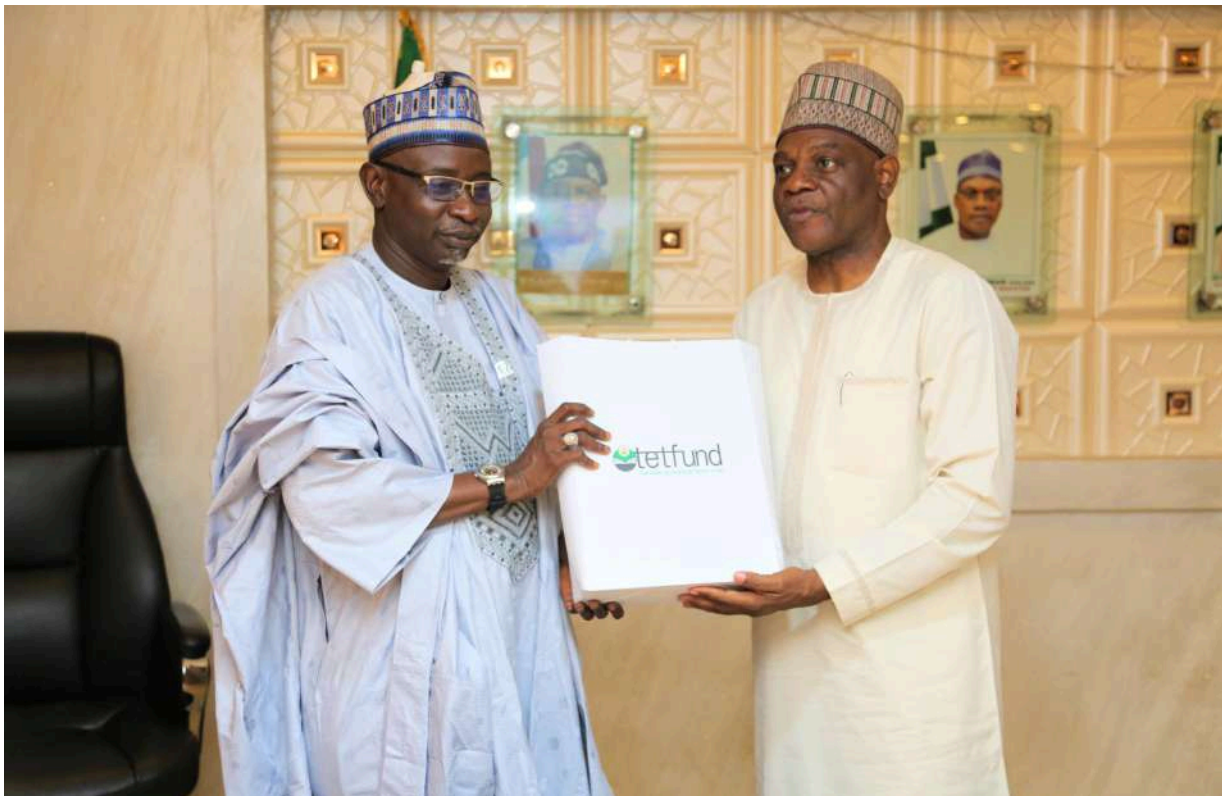
Presenting the award to the Executive Secretary, the President of the Society, Professor Samuel Aghalino stated that the award is given to exceptional individuals in the Society who have displayed exemplary commitment to the service of the Nation and reputed to have the best intentions for the society and humanity.

He described Arc. Sonny Echono’s life as characterized by unconditional love for God and humanity, blazing an emblem of the best values of sacrifice, honesty, sincerity, moral courage, and commitment to service and humanity. These attributes, he stated, made the Executive Secretary deserving of the recognition and award.

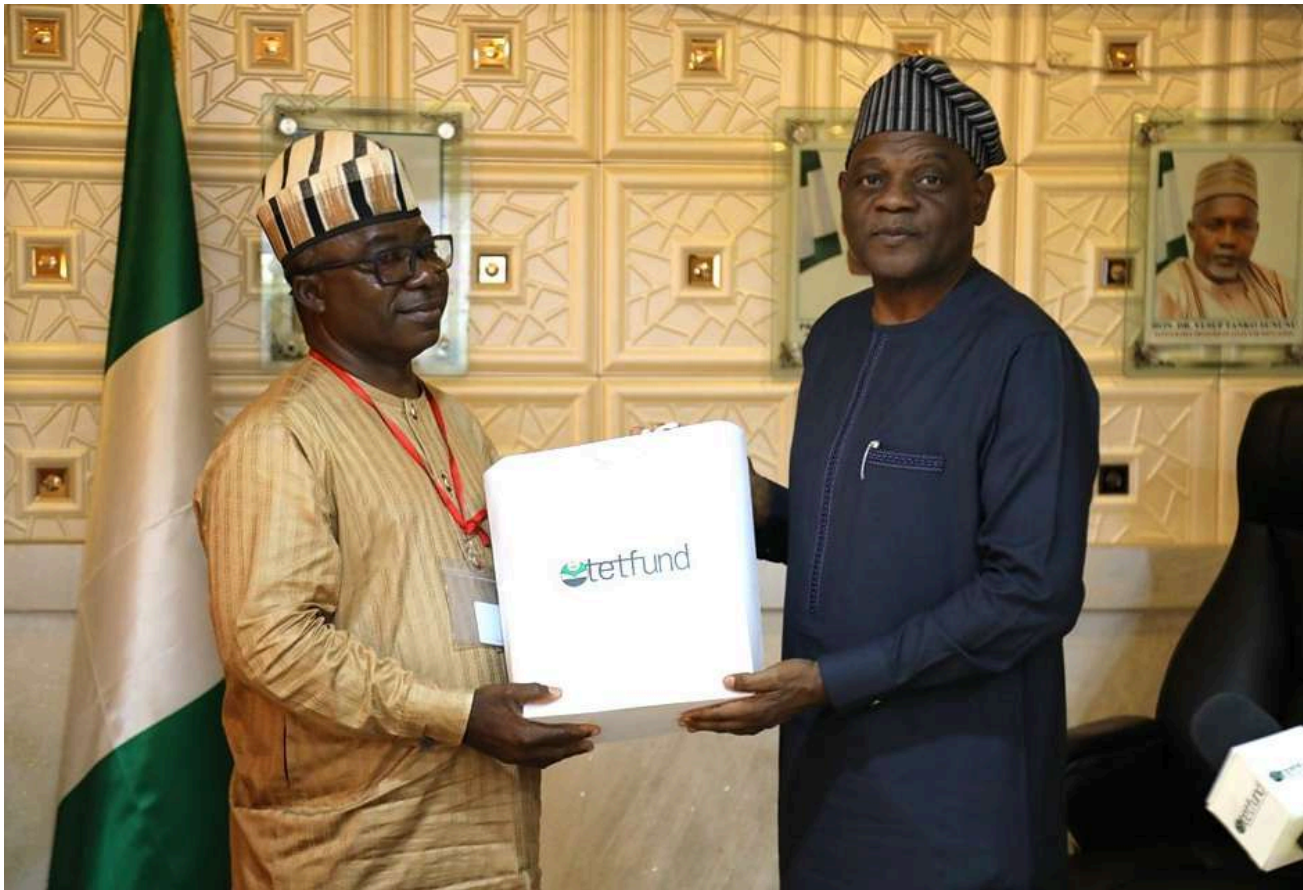




SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF
NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
ALUMNI



COURTESY VISITS



DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE
COLLEGE

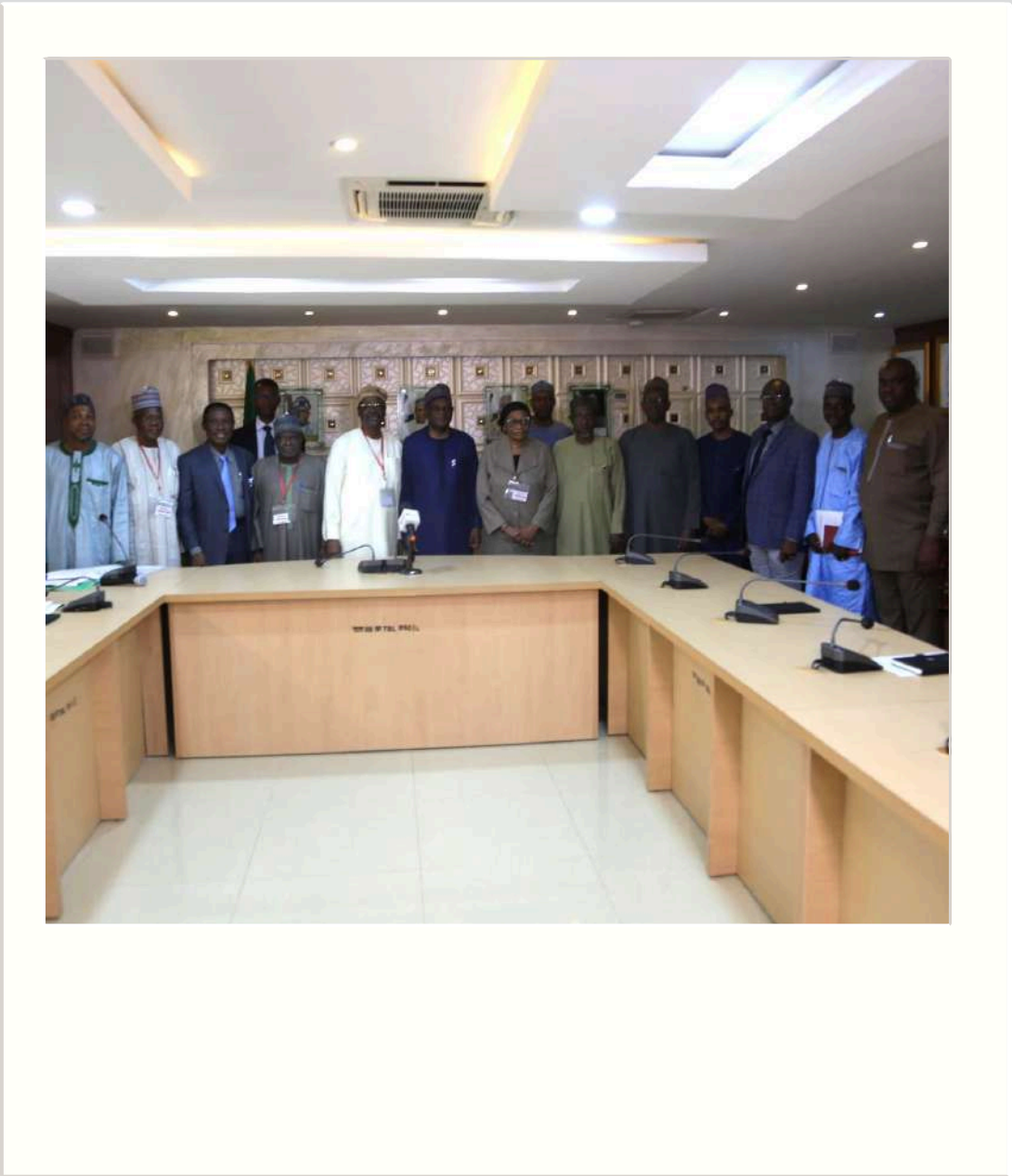
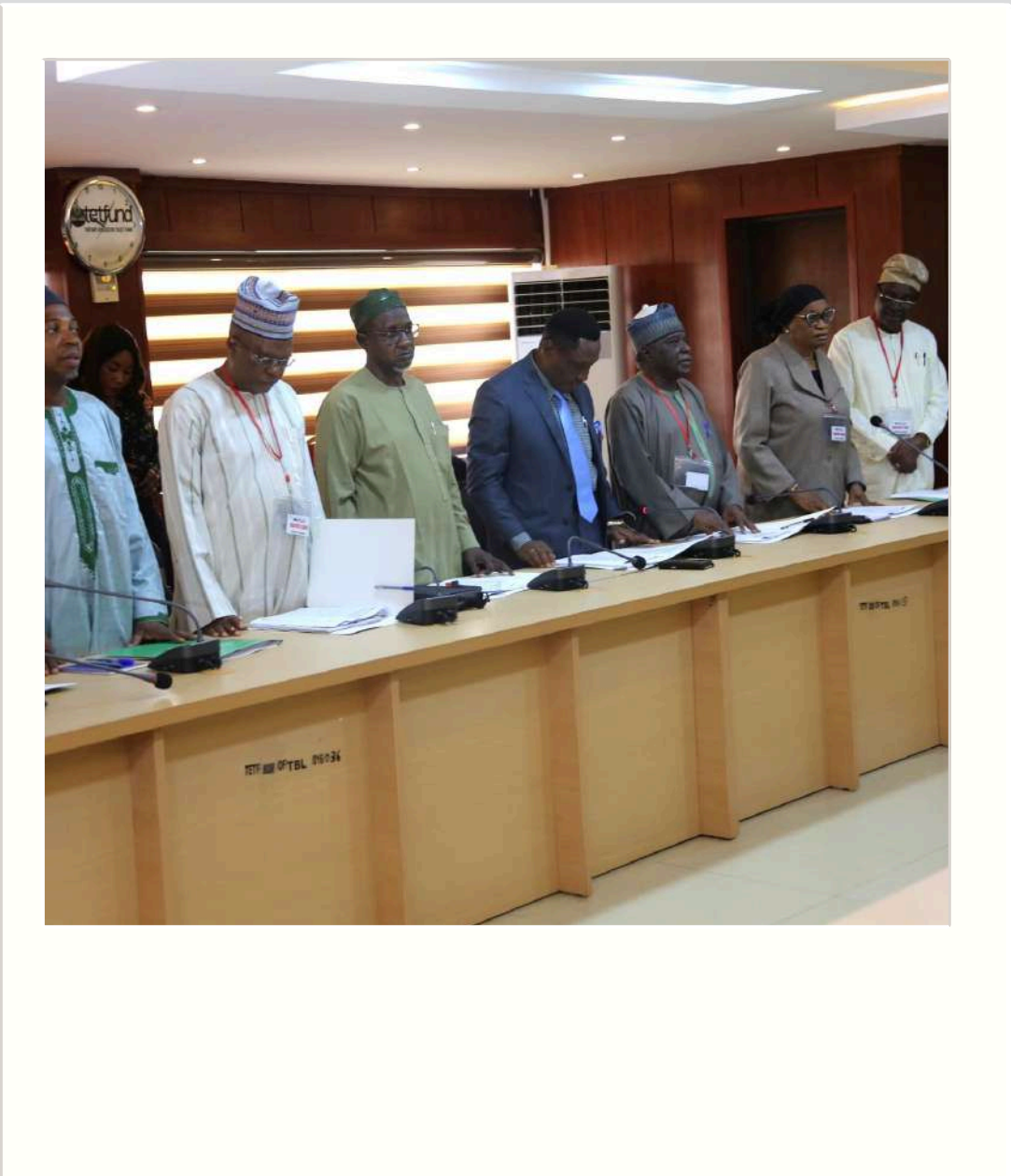


KANO STATE
HEALTH TRUST
FUND

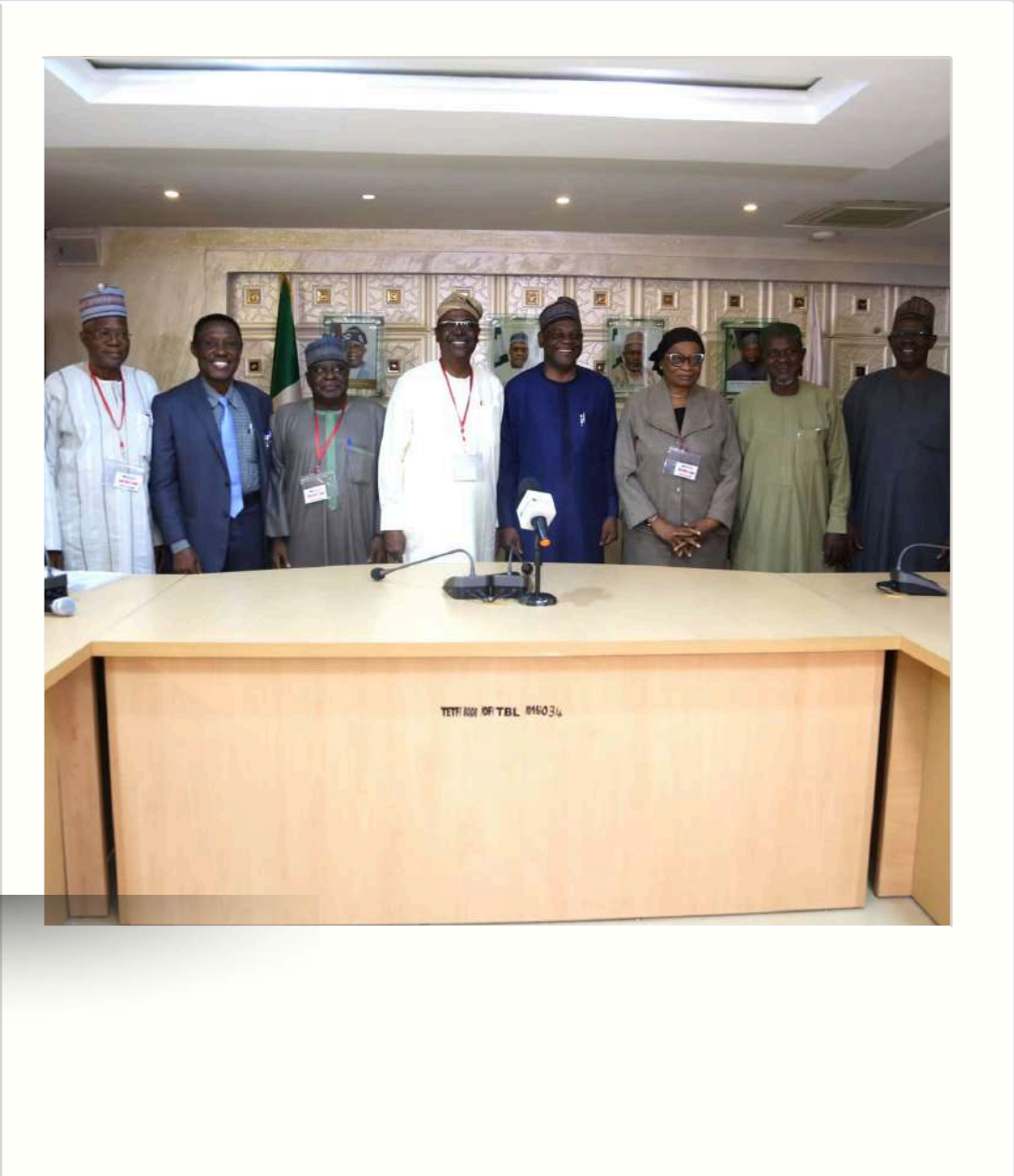




PRESENTATION OF REPORT BY THE
MULTI - PURPOSE LABORATORY
COMMITTEE



WE REMAIN FOCUSED...





ANTHOLOGY

VIST

THE PHOTO SPEAK

READ THE CLUES AT THE SIDE TO FIGURE OUT THE ANSWERS

I	D	I	A	S	P	O	R	A	N	T	T	M	E	N	E	D	S
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DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
EDUCATIONAL
TECHNOLOGY
STRATEGY
PARTNERSHIP
DIASPORA
RESEARCH
CENTRE
LABORATORY
SOLAR
PLANT

TEASER

1. A WOMAN SHOOTS HER HUSBAND, THEN HOLDS HIM UNDERWATER FOR 5 MINUTES BEFORE HANGING HIM. HOWEVER, SOME MINUTES LATER, SHE WENT OUT WITH HER HUSBAND TO ENJOY A WONDERFUL DINNER. HOW CAN THIS BE?
2. WHAT HAS CITIES, BUT NO HOUSES, FORESTS BUT NO TREES AND WATER BUT NO FISH?



Twitter



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Instagram



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Website



TETFund is located at the
above QR code

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