

PANORAMA

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EXCLUSIVE

**TETFUND BOT CHAIRMAN
COMMISSIONS N4.089
BILLION LANDMARK
PROJECTS AT IBB
UNIVERSITY**

**TETFund Announces Allocation
of N2.5 billion to Each
University in 2026
Intervention**

**FG COMMISSIONS N7 BILLION TETFUND
PROJECTS AT FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
HEALTH SCIENCE, ILA ORANGUN**



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EDITOR NOTES

We are delighted to wish our esteemed readers a Happy New Year 2026 as we bring to you this exciting edition of the TETFund Panorama.

To kick-start intervention activities for Year 2026, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has announced an allocation of N2,525,932,228.02 to each public university in its 2026 Intervention, while polytechnics will get N1,871,059,920.53 each, and Colleges of Education N2,056,527,973.04 each. Details of allocation are contained in this edition.

This edition also features the 2025 Management Retreat of TETFund held in Yola, where the Executive Secretary stated that the Fund recorded significant achievements in its various intervention lines in 2025 despite economic pressures arising from exchange rate fluctuations and rising projects costs.

TETFund recorded another impressive success in its drive to strengthen research and innovation in the country via its TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) programme. Academic researchers from public tertiary institutions across the country unveiled prototypes developed under the initiative, during the closing ceremony held at Innov8 Hub, in Abuja recently.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and TETFund have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate Nigeria's transition toward an innovation-driven, knowledge-based economy; just as the Fund also signed another MoU with the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) to strengthen research and innovation that can have a direct, positive impact on the economy.

Still on research, the National Defence College (NDC) has sought assistance of the Fund to enhance its research capacity and overhaul its curriculum in line with emerging security threats and the fast-evolving applications of Artificial Intelligence.

The Fund held the 2025 National Town Hall Meeting in Abuja and Lagos, to reaffirm its commitment to transparency, accountability and inclusive governance in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration. Details can be found in this edition of the magazine.

Readers will also find in this publication the commissioning of iconic TETFund projects in Beneficiary Institutions across the federation.

Worthy of mention is the commendation by former Governor of Bauchi State and Chairman of the Governing Council of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Mallam Isa Yuguda who has described TETFund as the pillar of public tertiary institution in Nigeria.

These and others, you will find in this interesting edition of your favourite magazine, TETFund Panorama.

A.B Oniyangi

TETFund Announces Allocation of N2.5 billion to Each University in 2026 Intervention

...AS POLYTECHNICS GET N1.8 BILLION AND COES N2

BILLION EACH BY AMOS ANETEKHAI

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has announced an allocation of N2,525,932,228.02 to each public university in its 2026 Intervention, while polytechnics will get N1,871,059,920.53 each, and Colleges of Education N2,056,527,973.04 each.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono revealed this during the 2026 Strategic Planning Workshop with heads of TETFund Beneficiary Institutions held at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja recently.

Giving highlights of the 2026 Disbursement cycle, the Executive Secretary stated that total direct disbursement represents 90.75% of the funds broken down into Annual Direct Disbursement at 50% and Special Direct Disbursement taking 40.75%.

Arc. Echono expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the timely approval of the Fund's 2026 Disbursement Guidelines, which would enable the Fund's intervention activities for the year to commence in time.

"We express our profound gratitude to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for his timely approval of the 2026 Disbursement Guidelines, and for his steadfast commitment to the repositioning of Nigeria's tertiary education sector in line with the administration's Renewed Hope Agenda.

"We also wish to acknowledge the dedication of our indefatigable Hon Minister for Education Dr Maruf Alausa CON for his prompt and speedy transmission of the 2026 disbursement guidelines for Mr. Presidents approval. I must not fail to appreciate the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Rt Hon Bello Masari, CFR and all members of the Board for their tireless support and work to prepare and present the Year 2026 intervention guidelines in record time," he said.



Reflecting on the year 2025 intervention cycle, the Executive Secretary stated that TETFund recorded notable milestones and commendable progress, which included strengthened stakeholder engagements, improved policy alignment, timely implementation of intervention programmes, as well as sustained capacity-building initiatives across beneficiary institutions. Arc. Echono further revealed that to strengthen the quality and impact of research in TETFund Beneficiary Institutions, the Fund has introduced a new Intervention Line in the Year 2026 annual direct intervention, named the Nigerian Research and Education Network (Ng REN).

He explained that the new intervention line aims to improve access to global academic resources and to integrate the Tertiary Education, Research, Applications and Services (TERAS) platform into NgREN with effect from 2026 Intervention.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the TETFund Board of Trustees, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari expressed concern over delays by some Beneficiary Institutions in accessing previously allocated funds.

He advised heads of institutions to work closely with their governing councils to accelerate access and utilization of TETFund allocations for the benefit of their institutions and the country at large, noting that Nigerians are interested in knowing how the Fund's allocations are deployed.



Present at the event were the Director Polytechnics Education and Allied Institution, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Ejeh Usman, who represented the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu, Executive Secretary of National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Prof. Paulinus Okwelle, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary of National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Prof. Diya'uddeen Hasan, leadership of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) and others.



FG Commissions N7 Billion TETFund Projects at Federal University of Health Science, Ila Orangun

BY MARIA JOSEPH

The Federal Government has commissioned several iconic projects worth N7 billion at the Federal University of Health Science (FUHSI), Ila Orangun, Osun State.

The projects which include the University Senate Building, Library, ICT Centre, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, as well as University Electrification projects were unveiled by the Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, alongside the Chairman of the TETFund Board of Trustees, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari and former Osun State Governor, Chief Bisi Akande. Speaking during the event, the Minister of Education expressed profound joy at the quality of projects commissioned at FUSHI, stating that they would elevate the quality of training, research, innovation and healthcare delivery for years to come.

Dr. Alausa further stated that projects aligns with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda and the Ministry of Education's reform programme aimed at setting new national direction for quality, relevance, and competitiveness in Nigerian's education sector.

He emphasized the Federal Government's commitment to repositioning Nigeria's educational institutions for production of skilled workforce capable of driving national development, particularly in the health and education sector.

"No country can grow beyond the quality of its health workforce, Medical Education is not mere academic discipline, it is a national security priority, an economic growth engine, and measure of civilization," he stated.

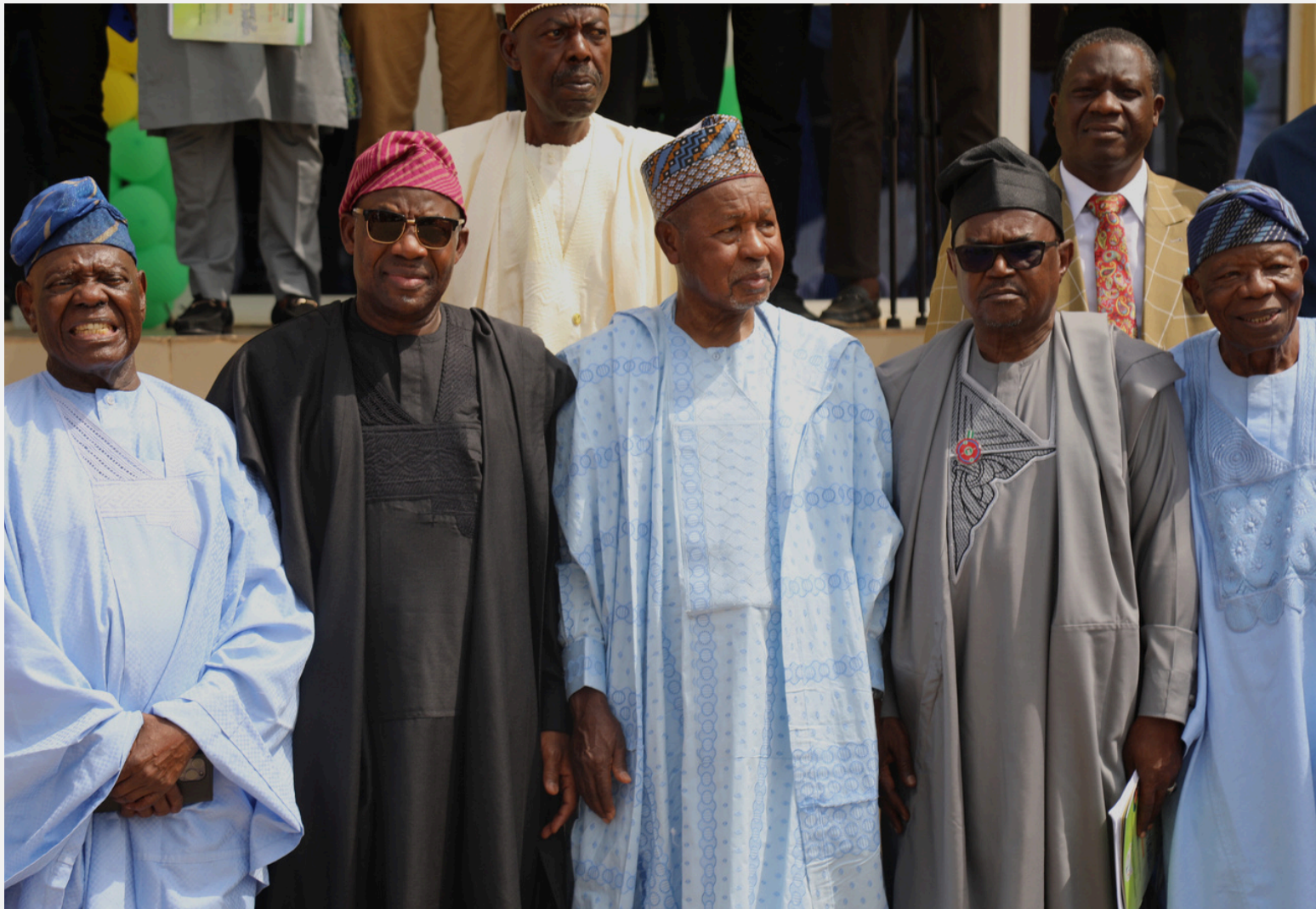
In his remark, the Chairman of the TETFund Board of Trustees, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari commended the Federal government for the establishment of the University in the year 2021 for the advancement of academic and research excellence in Health, Nutrition, and medical science.

He expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his steadfast commitment to educational development in the country, and continuous support to TETFund, which he said has enabled the Fund to invest strategically in addressing critical infrastructural and academic needs across tertiary institutions over the past two years.



Rt. Hon. Masari explained that projects formed part of the N10,540, 000,000 allocated to the university from 2021 to date, of which the university has accessed N9,417,606,344.57, leaving a balance of N1,122,393,655.430 most of which have already been committed.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, represented by the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation of TETFund, Arc. Babatunde Olajide stated that TETFund activities commenced at FUHSI in 2021 as one of the three specialized universities established to bridge the gap in the health sector.



He commended the university management for its commitment to keying into the vision of the Fund by developing world-class infrastructures.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Akeem Lasisi, stated that the institution currently runs 13 programmes with a total of 3,493 students, adding that nine of the 13 programmes have been accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

TETFund Hosts Lagos Town Hall Meeting, Reaffirms Commitment to Transparency, Innovation

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN



The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has held the Lagos edition of its 2025 National Town Hall Meeting, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, accountability and inclusive governance in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration.

Welcoming stakeholders at the event, which is the second in the series, after Abuja's meeting, the TETFund's Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, described the Town Hall Meeting as a critical platform that brings together beneficiary institutions, communities, policymakers, civil society organizations, development partners, the media, students and the general public to exchange ideas on the future of Nigeria's tertiary education sector. He noted that the Fund has consistently executed its mandate of rebuilding, strengthening and modernizing Public Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

Rt. Hon Masari explained that; "While TETFund is widely known for transformational infrastructural projects that now define the skylines of campuses across the country, the heart of the Agency's work remains the development of human capital. He emphasized that the Fund has expanded its strategy to focus on academic standards, institutional capacity, research, innovation, digitalization, entrepreneurship and global competitiveness."

Speaking further, the Chairman disclosed that thousands of lecturers have benefitted from TETFund-sponsored Masters and PhD programmes, both locally and internationally. He added that the Fund has also supported teaching practice, academic conferences, professional certification, manuscript development and pedagogical enhancement, all geared toward building a globally competitive academic workforce.

PANORAMA

On research and innovation, Masari highlighted several initiatives that are reshaping Nigeria's knowledge economy. These include the TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR), which has produced more than 200 prototypes, and the Research for Impact (R4i) programme that has trained 939 academics to convert ideas into commercially viable products.

Rt. Hon. Masari also listed the establishment of multi-disciplinary research laboratories across geopolitical zones, the creation of Centers of Excellence, and the Nigerian Education Data Initiative which is strengthening evidence-based planning through real time data.

He further outlined major investments in innovation and entrepreneurship hubs across beneficiary institutions. These hubs are equipped with robotics and electronics laboratories, 3D printing units, renewable energy labs, biotechnology and artificial intelligence Centres, creative and leathercraft workshops and recycling platforms.

Other key interventions include the upgrade of 18 Colleges of Medicine and the ongoing establishment of eight medical simulation Centres, as well as a N70 Billion commitment in the 2025 budget for campus mini grid power solutions aimed at lowering operational costs and improving learning and research environments.

The Chairman reiterated TETFund's transparency framework, noting that annual allocations follow a clearly structured formula as follows; "Five percent is dedicated to administration, four percent is deducted by the tax authority as collection cost while the remaining ninety one percent is shared as fifty percent annual direct disbursement to institutions, forty percent special interventions and one percent operating surplus".



"Five percent is dedicated to administration, four percent is deducted by the tax authority as collection cost while the remaining ninety one percent is shared as fifty percent annual direct disbursement to institutions, forty percent special interventions and one percent operating surplus".



Reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility, he urged institutions, host communities, alumni and industry partners to safeguard TETFund funded projects and strengthen maintenance culture for long term sustainability.

The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono in his remarks, noted that creation of TETFund in 2011 redefined Nigeria's approach to tertiary education development, stressing that Nigeria's young population gives the country a comparative advantage in the global workforce, especially with the expansion of virtual work opportunities. He recalled that in 2018, Nigeria's foreign remittances surpassed oil earnings, underscoring the value of knowledge export and intellectual capital.

He disclosed that TETFund is studying the education models of Japan, Finland, the United States and Germany to upgrade Nigeria's curriculum. This he said informed the design of the Tertiary Education Research and Application System TERAS platform which will connect over 400 digital libraries and give students access to the same learning resources used in top global institutions.

He added that entrepreneurship and real time learning will be integrated into curricula nationwide. He commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for safeguarding the Agency during attempts to defund it and for allocating fifty percent of the development levy to TETFund under the new tax law.

Representing the Lagos State Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Permanent Secretary, Kasali Adeniran Waheed delivered a goodwill message lauding TETFund's role in advancing institutional quality across the country. He said Lagos institutions now operate with 21st century standards due to investments in technology, creativity and infrastructure. He highlighted the global partnerships emerging from improved quality in Lagos tertiary institutions and appealed for increased TETFund support, especially for the University of Lagos, which he described as the most sought-after institution in the country.

It would be recalled that the Northern version of the town hall meeting was held earlier in Abuja and also attracted different stakeholders from all sectors including the Minister of Information, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, represented by the Director General, Radio Nigeria, Dr. Mohammed Bulama; Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Education, Sen. Muntari Dandutse, Chairperson, House Committee on TETFund and other Service, Hon. Mariam Onuoha and representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Sen. George Akume.

Also present were the Chairman, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, Professor Tanko Ishaya; Presidential spokespersons, Bayo Onanuga and Sunday Dare; former State Governors, scholars and members of civil society organisations.

Over N7.38Billion Allocated to Akwa-Ibom COE... Masari

... COMMISSIONS N1.39B ADMIN BUILDING, ICT CENTRE

BY ERASMUS ALANEME

Over N7.38billion has been allocated to the Akwa Ibom State College of Education, Afaha-Nsit for various intervention by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), with the college reported to have accessed N6.92billion for physical infrastructure development.

The above was disclosed by the Chairman, Board of Trustees of TETFund, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari while commissioning two TETFund sponsored projects, namely the Administrative Building of the College and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre valued at N1.39billion as part of the 8th – 13th Combined Convocation ceremonies of the College.

Masari lauded the management of the College for its sagacity and commitment in ensuring the projects were completed and ready for commissioning in the face of economic challenges. He pointed out that “Each time we see our beneficiaries complete their projects to the required standard, we are always delighted to identify with them as this showcases and justifies the huge injection of funds allocated as intervention funds by the Federal Government.



“No doubt, these projects will go a long way at improving the teaching and learning environment and the acquisition of requisite skills by students. While I salute His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, and the State Executive Council for the continuous support given to the College in actualising its mandate of training quality teachers for our basic education schools, I equally commend the College Management for a job well done,” he said.

Speaking further, the TETFund Board Chairman reiterated that the Fund has resolved as an agency of the Federal Government to keep pace with current advancements and is making significant efforts at ensuring that beneficiary institutions are up to date, through support to acquire relevant tools of work for knowledge creation, learning, research and supporting teacher training, entrepreneurship and skills development.

According to him, TETFund will never relent at ensuring support for public tertiary institutions towards achieving world class status as they perform their role in educating and equipping knowledge seekers of all ages.



“The total cost of the projects to be commissioned is N1,391,116,511.32. You may wish to know also that from the start of TETFund interventions to this College, the Fund has allocated a total of N7,388,131,247.96, for infrastructure-related projects only. Out of this, a total of N6,925,204,879.46 have been accessed, leaving a balance of N462,926,368.50, most of which are already committed.

“While I commend the College for the completion of these projects, I urge you to ensure that these facilities are properly maintained and protected. You will agree with me that funds are not cheap to come by these days in the face of many competing infrastructural needs and as such, it behoves all users and stakeholders to ensure that these facilities are well maintained to prevent early wear and tear.

“We shall continually engage with our beneficiary institutions towards ensuring the initiation and delivery of iconic and impactful intervention projects in subsequent intervention years.” Masari

“Our resolve as a Fund is to ensure that our interventions are sustained and improved upon as much as possible to enable our institutions undertake bigger, and more laudable and impactful projects that will make them become globally competitive. We shall continually engage with our beneficiary institutions towards ensuring the initiation and delivery of iconic and impactful intervention projects in subsequent intervention years.” he added.

Also speaking, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T Echono reiterated the resolve of the Fund as an intervention agency of the Federal Government working towards providing necessary facilities in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Echono who was represented by the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Fund, Arc. Babatunde Olajide explained that TETFund in line with the aspiration of the present administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and decision of the Board of Trustees, will collaborate with Beneficiary Institutions to complete all projects.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of TETFund in the development tertiary education in Nigeria, the Akwa Ibom Governor, Pastor Umo Eno who was represented by the Commissioner of Education, Prof. Ubong Umoh stated that without interventions from TETFund, most public tertiary institutions would have gone comatose because of inadequacies in physical infrastructure and other learning facilities.



The Governor who noted that TETFund had earlier commissioned projects in the State-owned University said these interventions show the extent to which the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Arise Agenda of the state government are shaping education to make life better for Nigerians

Also speaking, Provost of the College, Prof. Daniel Udo narrated how he assumed duty at the College when TETFund was threatening to withdraw its interventions from institutions which were not accessing them, disclosing that he inherited funds allocated by TETFund for 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 interventions.



Prof. Udo expressed appreciation to the Board and Management of TETFund for rescinding the decision following the interface on the matter in Abuja, appealing further to TETFund to help sustain the support to the institution in furtherance of the cordial and mutual working relations it had built overtime with the college.

“Like Oliver Twist always ask for more, I humbly request TETFund to construct perimeter fence around this college to protect all our facilities and other installations,” the provost added.

The new administrative building that was commissioned consists of three suspended floors accommodating 65 well-furnished offices, four equipped computer labs and a conference hall, aside the ICT Centre Building which is to position the institution for global competitiveness.

Members of the Board of Trustees and top Management of TETFund, alongside other dignitaries and state functionaries from Akwa Ibom State graced the occasion of the iconic project commissioning and convocation.





TETFUND BOT CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONS N4.089 BILLION LANDMARK PROJECTS AT IBB UNIVERSITY

AMOS ANETEKHAI

In continuation of the unveiling of projects sponsored by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) in its Beneficiary Institutions across the country, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TETFund, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari has commissioned two iconic projects valued at N4.089 billion at Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU), Lapai, Niger State.

The projects are the remodelled University Senate Building and the Faculty of Law Complex, which were constructed at the cost of N1,584,998,463.70 and N2,504,381,517.61, respectively.

Speaking at the inauguration Ceremony, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari noted that the Fund has since 2011 allocated N15.25 billion for infrastructure-related projects to the university, out of which N13.04 billion has been accessed.

While commending the university authorities for prudent utilisation of funds, the TETFund BOT Chairman stated that the newly commissioned projects reflect TETFund's continued alignment with the Federal Government's vision of providing relevant

facilities for more effective teaching and learning in public tertiary institutions in the country, including interventions in sustainable power supply, medical training facilities, ICT among others.

"We urge the university to ensure proper maintenance of these facilities. On our part, TETFund will sustain impactful interventions to make Nigerian institutions globally competitive," he stated.

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE REMAINS VITAL FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

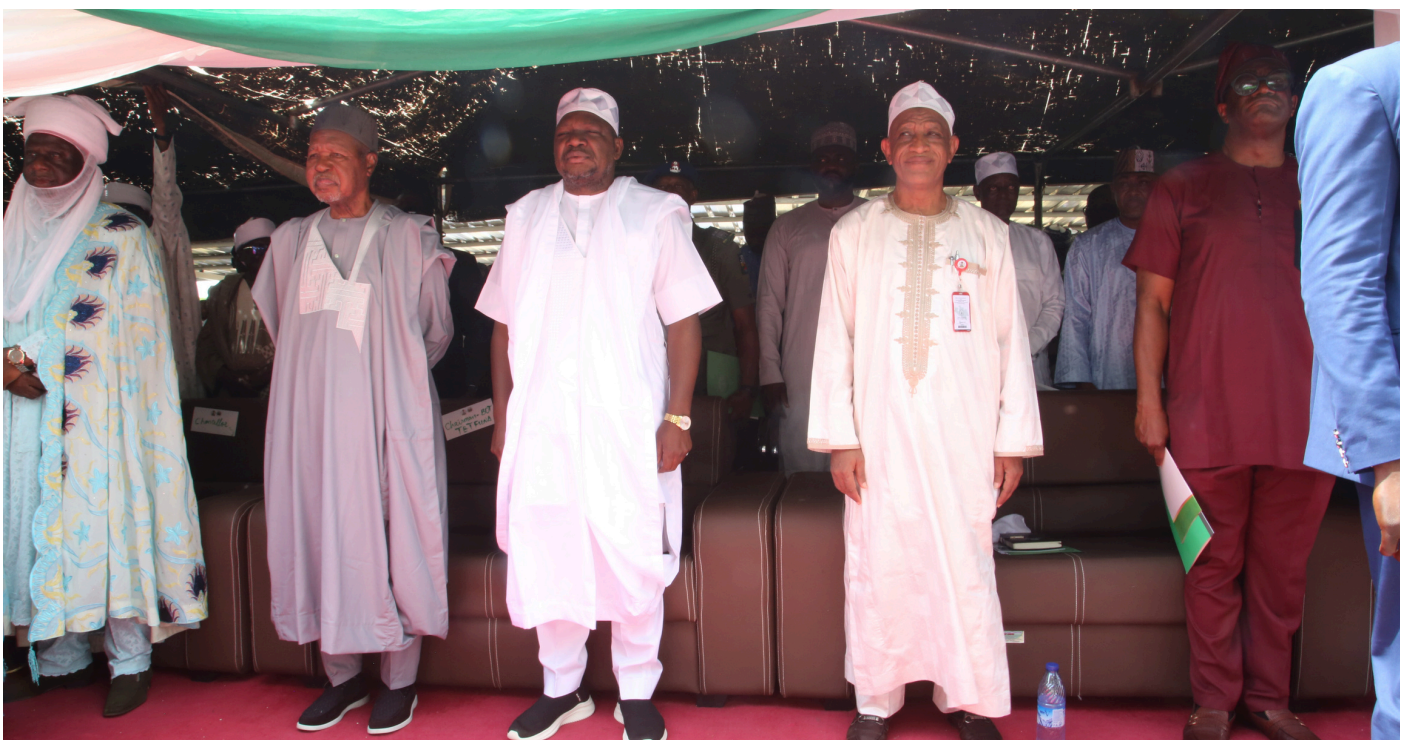
Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc Sonny Echono, who was represented by the Fund's Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Arc. Babatunde Olajide, described the inauguration as a milestone in advancing Nigeria's higher education, stressing that world-class infrastructure remains vital for academic excellence and innovation.

Arc. Echono commended the State Government and the university management for their developmental efforts and urged the university community to protect and utilize the new facilities for better learning experience.

Also speaking at the event, Governor Umar Bago of Niger State, represented by his Deputy Governor, Comrade Yakubu Garba, commended TETFund for successful delivery of the projects.

Speaking earlier, the Vice-Chancellor of IBB University, Prof. Mohammed Suleiman expressed appreciation to TETFund and the state government for their support.

Prof. Suleiman disclosed that the remodelled Senate Building contains 70 offices, a 200-seat Senate Chamber, 50-seat Council Chamber, and 96,000-litre water reservoir, while the Faculty of Law Complex comprises 106 offices, lecture theatres, an e-library, boardrooms, and a 450-seat moot court.



TETFund/Fire Service to Boost Fire Safety in Tertiary Institutions

BY SAADATU SALIHU



Determined to ensure safety of life and properties in the nation's public tertiary institutions, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Federal Fire Service have made a commitment to provide every necessary apparatus to boost fire defence on campuses.

The two agencies agreed on this when the Controller-General of the Federal Fire Service, Mr. Samuel Olumode Adeyemi, and his team paid a courtesy visit to TETFund boss, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, at the Fund's headquarters in Abuja.

Speaking during the visit, Mr. Adeyemi said, "TETFund is one of our major partners, and we would like to appreciate your efforts in infrastructural development, especially in Federal Universities, Colleges of Education, and Polytechnics".

He mentioned that the Federal Fire Service's mandate is to protect lives, property, and fire-education initiatives, among other responsibilities, adding that the visit is to strengthen their existing relationship with TETFund.

"In 2024, about three federal university hostels were gutted by fire, in Yobe, a hostel with 29 rooms was burnt, and we lost about four or five students. This year, a girls' hostel at Kogi State University and several other facilities were also affected. We need to collaborate with TETFund so that new buildings and structures are equipped with fire-defence equipment—smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, alarm systems—to reduce economic losses and fire incidents in our universities." He noted.

Adeyemi further explained that most public institutions lack fire stations, stating that if more fire stations could be built in the campuses, it would reduce loss of property and lives across the country.

He also appealed for TETFund's support in developing training institutes and research centres for the Fire Service, emphasizing the need for joint efforts to enhance fire safety nationwide.



In his remarks, Arc. Echono applauded the Federal Fire Service for its commitment to protection of lives and property. He added that TETFund's primary mission is to provide infrastructure for teaching, learning and research in both federal and state-owned tertiary institutions, noting that the value of assets developed through the Fund amounts to several billions of naira, insisting that maintaining these assets, requires proactive measures, especially in fire prevention and management.

"TETFund has a responsibility and many other duties to ensure fire protection is essential. We will ensure that all our schools have at least a fire extension so we can respond quickly in the event of a fire."

"We cannot create these national assets without considering how to keep them functional and safe for users. Fire protection is crucial; it includes installing devices such as hydrants sprinklers and smoke detectors, as well as ensuring personnel are properly trained to handle fire emergencies", Echono said.

The Executive Secretary recalled that two fire incidents had occurred in the past year, prompting a thorough integrity assessment of electrical systems and facilities, but "Prevention is a more effective strategy, and that is the goal of this collaboration". We will support this initiative through targeted interventions, while the Fire Service will provide the necessary manpower, training and technical expertise," he stated.

TETFund Inaugurates N1.06 Billion Projects At IMT

BY STELLA NWANKWO

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has commissioned five landmark infrastructural projects valued at N1.06bn at the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu.

The projects include, the International Conference Centre, Mass Communication Complex, General Studies Complex, Chemical Engineering Faculty and Zonal projects, which were part of the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014-2018 TETFund merged interventions.

TETFund Board of Trustees member, representing the South East geopolitical zone, Mrs. Esther Onyinyechukwu Ukachukwu, who performed the commissioning ceremony, explained that the projects are testaments to the Fund determination and resolve to ensure Nigeria's tertiary institutions are at par with their counterparts across the globe.

She noted that notwithstanding the economic challenges on fluctuation in currency, the management of IMT has exhibited transparency in carrying out the infrastructural edifices aimed at aiding teaching and learning in the foremost institution.

"For us at TETFund, it is a testament to the resilience and determination of the institution's management to ensure that the envisioned objective of the project is achieved, notwithstanding the numerous challenges encountered. TETFund will continue to assist beneficiary institutions to keep pace with technological advancements, particularly in digital learning and artificial intelligence,".



"The completion of these projects is not just an achievement for IMT, but a reflection of what transparency and determination can achieve in our public tertiary institutions she added.

She also disclosed that the polytechnic has been able to access a total of N6.22 billion out of the N7.24 billion allocated to it for various interventions over the years.

"Out of ₦7.24 billion allocated to IMT for infrastructural development over the years, the school has successfully accessed ₦6.22 billion and delivered on key projects that are transforming its learning environment," Ukachukwu said.

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, speaking at the event, commended the institution's management for the successful completion of monumental projects, noting that IMT has shown its resolve and commitment to realizing its vision, also aligning with the Fund's mandate of providing quality infrastructural facilities that support teaching, learning, and research in tertiary institutions.



“For all the projects that have been commissioned, we maintained them. You can see a fresh look. We repainted them; we retouched them, we did what was necessary to give it a fresh look.

Represented by the TETFund South-East Zonal Coordinator, Mrs. Catherine Onuoha, Echono however, urged the institution management to ensure proper maintenance of the buildings to prevent early deterioration, given the high cost of building materials.

He lauded the TETFund Board of Trustees (BoT) for compassionately approving the allocation of more funds for schools who are facing difficulties in completing their projects occasioned by price variations, pointing out that “this proactive approach is already yielding results”.

“This administration has a good maintenance culture and we will continue with that. If we don’t, we will allow them to deteriorate and they will no longer be useful to us,” he submitted.

The highly elated Rector of IMT, Professor Gozie Ogbodo, thanked the Board and Management of TETFund for continued quality interventions, while assuring the school’s commitment to maintain the newly commissioned structures.



TETFund Commissions N1.3 Billion Female Hostel at Ken Saro-Wiwa University

BY AMOS ANETEKHAI

As part of measures by the Federal Government to alleviate students' accommodation challenges in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has commissioned a 244-bed female hostel at Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, Bori River State.

The commissioning was performed by the member representing the South-South Geopolitical Zone on the TETFund Board of Trustees, Hon. Aboh Uduyok who commended the management of the institution for the timely delivery of the project.

"Today's event is more than a commissioning; it is a celebration of partnership, vision, and progress. Across Nigeria, TETFund has been commissioning completed projects in beneficiary institutions. This reflects the Fund's steady pursuit of excellence and impact through purposeful interventions. What we witness here today is a demonstration of prudent resource management and a shared commitment to transforming Nigeria's tertiary education sector, in line with the "Renewed Hope Agenda" of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.



"Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we are assembled here today for the commissioning of a 244 - Bed Female Student Hostel project whose total cost is N1,399,965,179.25 , sponsored by TETFund. It is gratifying to note that this project has been delivered under the present challenging economic conditions, and this is a tangible symbol of resilience, integrity, and commitment. This stands as part of TETFund's continuous effort to ensure that all beneficiary institutions have the requisite physical infrastructure to support innovation, creativity, and excellence in technical and vocational education," Hon Uduyok said.

In his goodwill message, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, who was represented by Engr. Samson Imoni of TETFund's Monitoring and Evaluation Department commended the institution for demonstrating prudence, integrity and discipline in its management of public funds.

Also speaking at the event, the Rector of the polytechnic, Dr. Ledum Gwarah expressed appreciation to TETFund for its invention role in the institution.

"This project brings us immense joy because it is not merely a building, it is a facility that transforms lives. With the comfort provided here, our students will be encouraged to remain on campus, concentrate on their studies, and thrive in a safe and conducive environment," he said.

TETFUND COMMISSIONS ICONIC OFFICE COMPLEX AT ADAMAWA STATE UNIVERSITY

BY ADEBAYO PHILLIPS

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has commissioned an iconic TETFund-sponsored office complex at Adamawa State University, Mubi, named after the former Vice Chancellor of the university and current Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, Prof. Kaletpwa G. Farauta.



In his remarks, Dr. Salihu Bakari Girei expressed delight to be part of the ceremony, noting that his humble efforts at ensuring the development of Adamawa institutions was a way of giving back to his home state.

He recalled his years as Executive Secretary of the Adamawa State Universal Basic Education Board (ADSUBEB), where he earned a reputation as an “ambassador of education” through the construction and renovation of hundreds of schools across the state’s 21 local government areas.

Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa State performed the inauguration alongside TETFund’s Director of Research and Development/Centres of Excellence, Dr. Salihu Girei Bakari, who stood in for the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of TETFund, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, as part of activities marking the institution’s 16th, 17th, and 18th convocation ceremonies which also had Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, and business magnate, Dr. Muhammadu Indimi in attendance.

Speaking at the event, Governor Fintiri commended TETFund for its commitment to supporting tertiary education and expressed appreciation to Dr. Girei for his dedication and passion for educational advancement in Adamawa State.

TETFund/NACCIMA Partner to Promote Research and Innovation

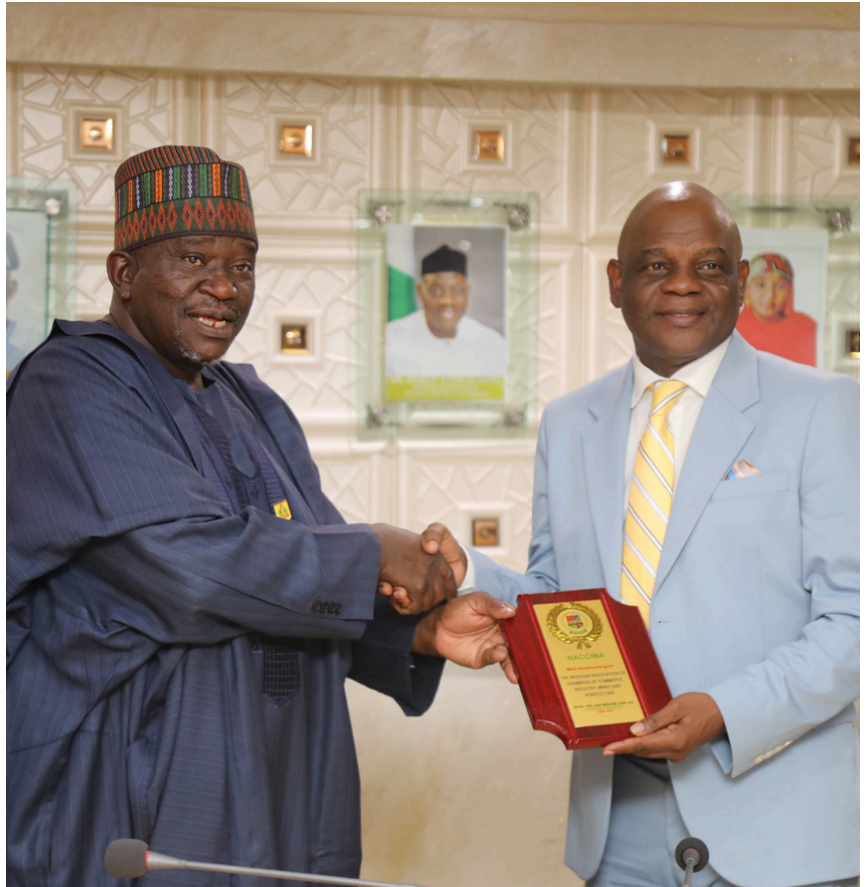
BY IJEOMA OBIAKOR

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at strengthening research and innovation that can have a direct, positive impact on the economy.

Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, expressed appreciation for the partnership, noting that the collaboration aligns with government's desire of creating an economy that is dependent on skills and enterprise of the Nigerian youths.

"This collaboration focuses on research, innovation, and production of graduates fit for purpose, ready to contribute effectively to industry. It is central to the triple helix model we have championed and supports the President's goal of harnessing Nigeria's human and material resources for national development," he said.

Echono re-emphasized the MOU several objectives to include, promoting research and innovation that address industrial and societal needs; facilitate the commercialization of research outcomes for the benefit of Nigeria; strengthen capacity-building, skills development, and entrepreneurship initiatives for youth, academia, and professionals. Others are to encourage investment and joint ventures between academia and industry; support policy advocacy and knowledge sharing for sustainable development; promote job creation, startup growth, and inclusive innovation through research and development.



"The partnership represents a significant milestone in our collaborative efforts to promote research and innovation, fast-track the commercialization of research outputs, skills and entrepreneurship development. We are confident that we have enough men and women, scholars, students and our academia that do the incubation hubs for all the ideas and solutions that our industries require in terms of new product development, improvement of system process, products and services to the Nation," and TETFund is committed to this collaboration in order to create a positive impact on our society," Echono stated.

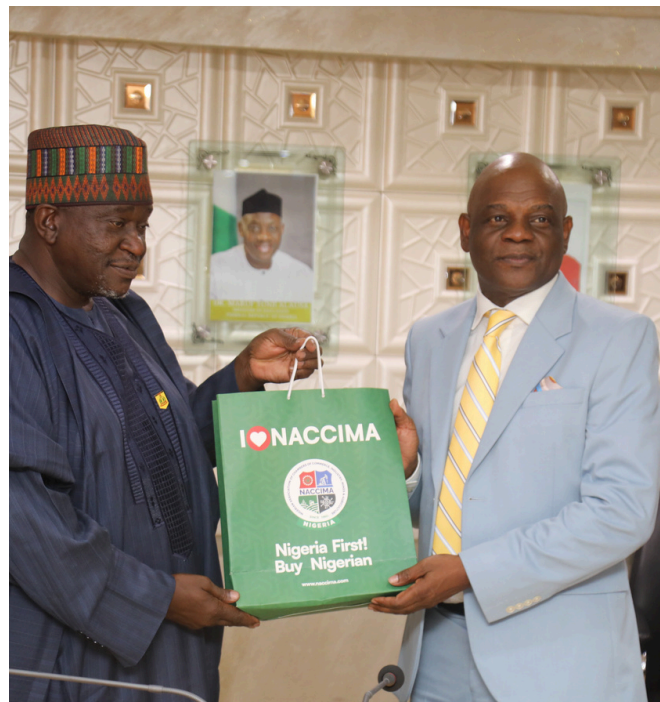
In his remarks, National President of NACCIMA, Engr. Jani Ibrahim, stated that the MOU represents a strategic partnership anchored on a shared belief that Nigeria's development must be driven by knowledge, innovation, skills, enterprise, and strong industry-academia collaboration.



Ibrahim emphasized that the private sector and the academia must work together in other to build a competitive, innovation-driven and global relevant economy. He added that the MOU provides a bridge for graduates to acquire practical skills to be able to solve real-world problems and for research institutions to commercialize knowledge, develop technologies, and contribute to national productivity.

"For NACCIMA and the business community, the partnership will guide research priorities toward industry needs and build a more competent workforce that enhance productivity, competitiveness, and investment growth. I would also like to state that NACCIMA is at the fore-front of leading the charge for the achievement of one trillion-dollar economy by 2030. We have also put in place so many structures to see to the achievement," he said

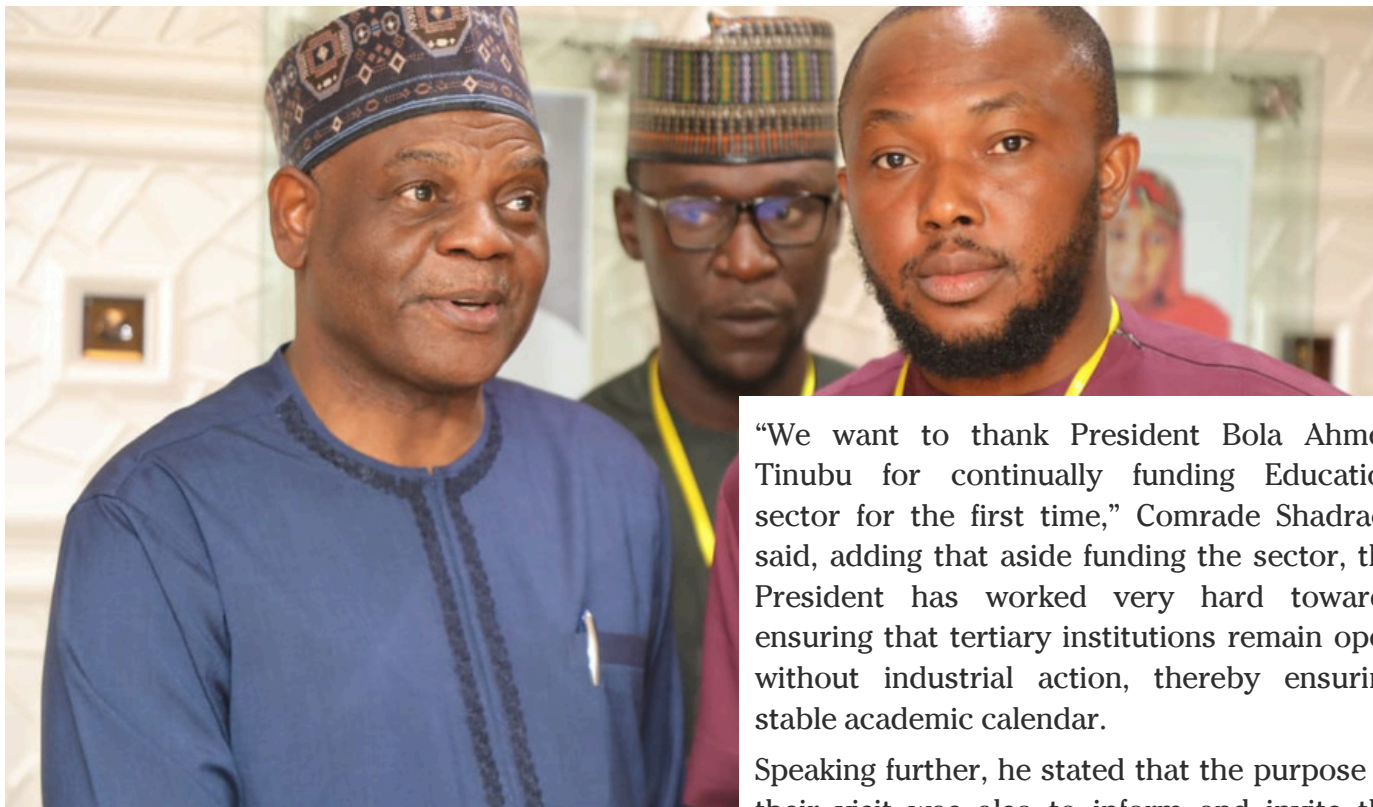
The NACCIMA President noted that the collaboration aligns with the education reforms of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's renewed Hope Agenda which strengthens TETFund through improved funding efficiency, upgraded research infrastructure, and a renewed focus on skills-driven and technology-based learning. He added that the MOU reinforces the Federal Government's commitment to an education sector that is innovative, industry-aligned, and globally competitive.



He noted that the MOU is the beginning of a long and purposeful journey to build a stronger link between education and industry, enhance national competitiveness, and unlock new opportunities for young Nigerians and businesses. He added that NACCIMA is committed to ensuring that the objectives of the MOU translate into concrete programmes, measurable outcomes, and sustainable impact.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NANS) PASSES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN ECHONO

BY IJEOMA OBIAKOR



The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has passed a vote of confidence in the Management of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono for transforming the landscape of public tertiary institutions in the country through impactful interventions.

The leadership of the student body revealed that after an independent tour of campuses in five geopolitical zones of the country, the Fund deserved special commendation especially under the current leadership of Arc. Echono who is ensuring that projects facing problems are taken care of.

Secretary General of NANS, Comrade Anzaku Shadrack who led the delegation on a courtesy call after the independent tour of campuses to verify impacts of TETFund interventions reinforced the need for all Nigerians to ensure that TETFund is supported in every possible means.

Noting that TETFund has earned the commendation for improved infrastructural development in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria, NANS pointed out that without TETFund some Beneficiary Institutions would not exist.

“We want to thank President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for continually funding Education sector for the first time,” Comrade Shadrack said, adding that aside funding the sector, the President has worked very hard towards ensuring that tertiary institutions remain open without industrial action, thereby ensuring stable academic calendar.

Speaking further, he stated that the purpose of their visit was also to inform and invite the Executive Secretary as special guest of honor to their forth coming 45th anniversary where the President will also be awarded the Grand Commander of Nigerian Students for the two years uninterrupted academic calendar for the first time since 1999.

In his remarks, Arc. Echono assured NANS that government will continue to provide necessary facilities, including physical and online resources, to enhance learning and make students globally competitive upon graduation.

He expressed delight over the visit, noting that it was an opportunity to interact with students and get feedbacks which they have collated from their visits to different institutions across the country.

“Mr. President is very appreciative of massive support he has received from Nigerian youths. We encourage you to continue; we will continue to implement programmes that will help us reposition, prepare you and empower you to be not just good citizens but prospective leaders of our society,” he said.

Masari Commissions Faculty of Social Sciences Lecture Theatre and Office Complex at Nasarawa State University

BY AMOS ANETEKHAI



The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari has commissioned the TETFund-sponsored Faculty of Social Sciences Lecture Theatre and Office Complex at Nasarawa State University, Keffi valued at over N700 million.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman stated that it was cheering note that it was the third time TETFund was visiting the university for the commissioning of projects within the last two to three years.

“For us at TETFund, it is a testament to the university’s resolve and commitment to ensuring that the funds allocated to it are well accounted for with verifiable physical evidence. This is quite encouraging, and we hope other beneficiary institutions will take a cue from this laudable example being set forth by Nasarawa State University, Keffi under the able leadership of its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sa’adatu Hassan Liman, who also happens to be the first female Vice Chancellor of the University.

“We also acknowledge the support of the University Council and members of staff and more notably, the State Government under the able leadership of His Excellency, Engr. Abdullahi Sule.

“The Nasarawa State University became enlisted as a beneficiary of TETFund in 2003 and has consistently enjoyed interventions from the Fund for its developmental projects. I will specifically mention that from its year of enlistment in 2003 to date, TETFund has allocated the sum of N12,777,989,066.00 for infrastructure-related interventions only, cutting across the Annual, Special, Special High Impact and Zonal interventions. It is remarkable to note that about 80% of these funds are already accessed, and evidence of the utilization of the funds are seen on the campus here. We are convinced that the projects undertaken with these funds will continually impact on the mandate of the university in facilitating teaching, learning, research and community service.

“The fused Lecture Theatre and Office complex to be commissioned shortly is of the years 2020/2021 (Merged) Annual intervention, being hosted under the Faculty of Social Sciences, and completed at a total cost of N717,374,213.75. We are optimistic that this facility will aid teaching and learning in a comfortable environment, having been furnished and adequately equipped for that purpose,” he said.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, represented by the Fund’s Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Arc. Babatunde Olajide stated that the project symbolised the Fund’s determination to strengthen Nigeria’s tertiary education system.

He called for proper maintenance and protection of the facility to avoid deterioration.



In her remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of Nasarawa State University, expressed appreciation over TETFund’s role in the university’s progress, noting that its interventions have impacted positively in the institution’s growth.

She disclosed that the university was ranked Number One in Nigeria by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings under Sustainable Development Goal 4 for Quality Education and thanked TETFund for its worthy partnership.

NDC SEEKS TETFUND SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH, CURRICULUM UPGRADE

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN



The National Defence College (NDC) has sought the assistance of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to enhance its research capacity and overhaul its curriculum in line with emerging security threats and the fast-evolving applications of Artificial Intelligence.

Commandant of the College, Rear Admiral Abdullahi Ahmed, made the appeal during a visit to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, at the Fund's headquarters in Abuja.

The Commandant revealed that he has initiated a comprehensive review of the College's curriculum and expressed confidence that the support and technical input of TETFund will help the College achieve the standard required to respond to contemporary and future security challenges.

He explained that the revamped curriculum will focus on Artificial Intelligence, strategic thinking and policy formulation, noting that these areas are central to national defence in the modern era. He further highlighted the College's role as the apex security training institution in Nigeria, with a strong record of producing strategic research outputs and peer reviewed publications that are recognized across Africa and beyond. He appealed for TETFund's backing for the publication and dissemination of these works.

Responding, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S. T. Echono, said there will be a broad collaborative area aimed at strengthening research, promoting innovation and enhancing national development. He stressed the importance of supporting institutions such as the NDC, which play key roles in securing the country and advancing knowledge in military and strategic studies.

Echono also commended the men and women of the Armed Forces for their sacrifices in keeping Nigerians safe, acknowledging that many have had to pay the high price in the line of duty.

He recalled his longstanding association with the College dating back to his tenure as Director of Procurement in the Ministry of Defence in 2008 and 2009, where he was directly involved in the initiation of the participants' quarters and several projects at the College's permanent site, and has maintained active engagement with its programmes over the years.

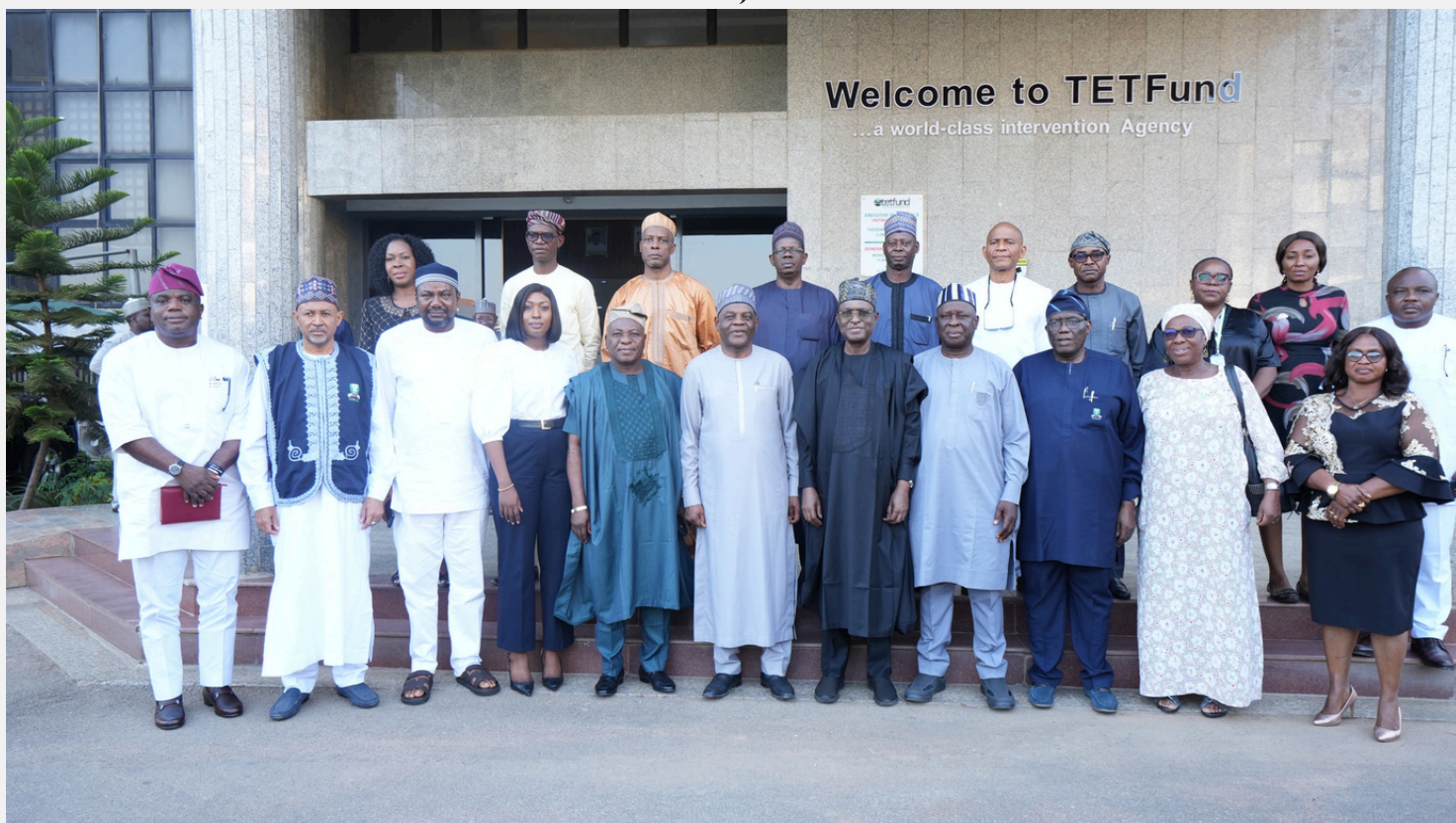
The TETFund Boss explained that the Fund has institutionalized a new thematic research area dedicated to the military and intelligence sector. This expansion, he stated, is driven by the recognition that many of the world's scientific breakthroughs originated from military research, citing the Global Positioning System as a prime example.

Echono reassured the College of TETFund's commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen defence education, deepen research and contribute to national security.

TETFUND, PILLAR OF PUBLIC TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA –

ISA YUGUDA

BY MARIA JOSEPH



Former Governor of Bauchi State and Chairman of the Governing Council of National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Mallam Isa Yuguda has described the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) as the pillar of public tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria, considering the massive intervention activities of the Fund in the institutions.

Mallam Yuguda stated this when he led members of the Governing Council of NOUN on a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono and his management team at the Fund's Headquarters in Abuja recently.

Speaking on the purpose of his visit, the former governor stated that the Governing Council was at the TETFund Office to express appreciation to the Executive Secretary and his management team for their exemplary service and support for NOUN over the years, even as he requested further assistance considering the peculiar operational mode of the university.

"We in National Open University are appreciative of your support in transforming the Nigeria educational system, but like Oliver Twist, we need more support in NOUN," he said.

While describing the open university system as the solution to Nigeria's struggle to create better access to tertiary education, Mallam Yuguda appealed to the Executive Secretary to offer NOUN special priority as the university has several study centres across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria providing accessible and flexible learning opportunities through open and distance methods.

He further stated that NOUN currently offers 48 courses in all its study centres, with quality study materials that other universities in the country benefit from and would require necessary facilities and equipment to make study seamless.

Mallam Yuguda affirmed NOUN's commitment to educating common Nigerians who cannot afford full time study and revealed that the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) has indicated interest in supporting students' enrolment in the university.

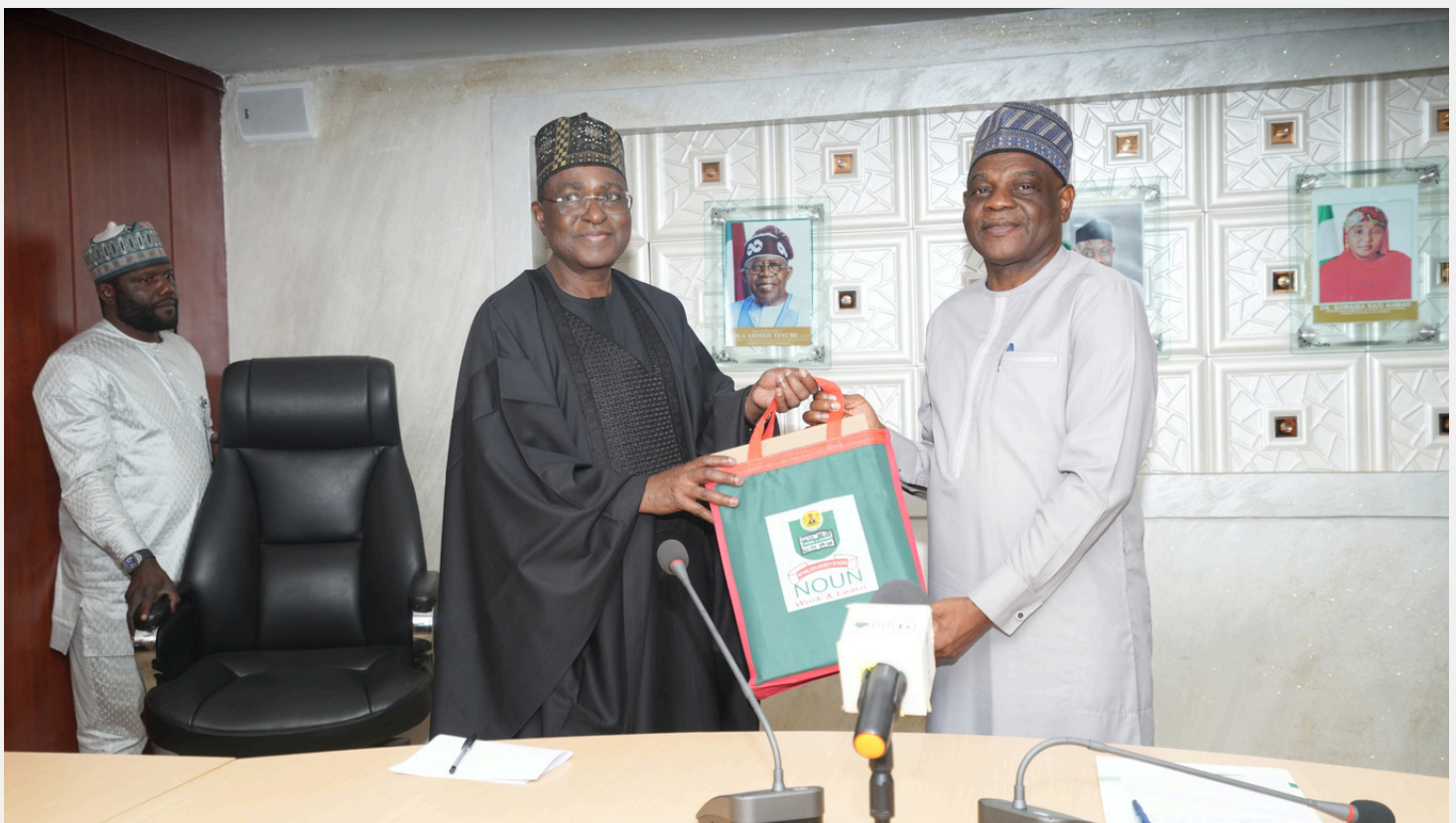
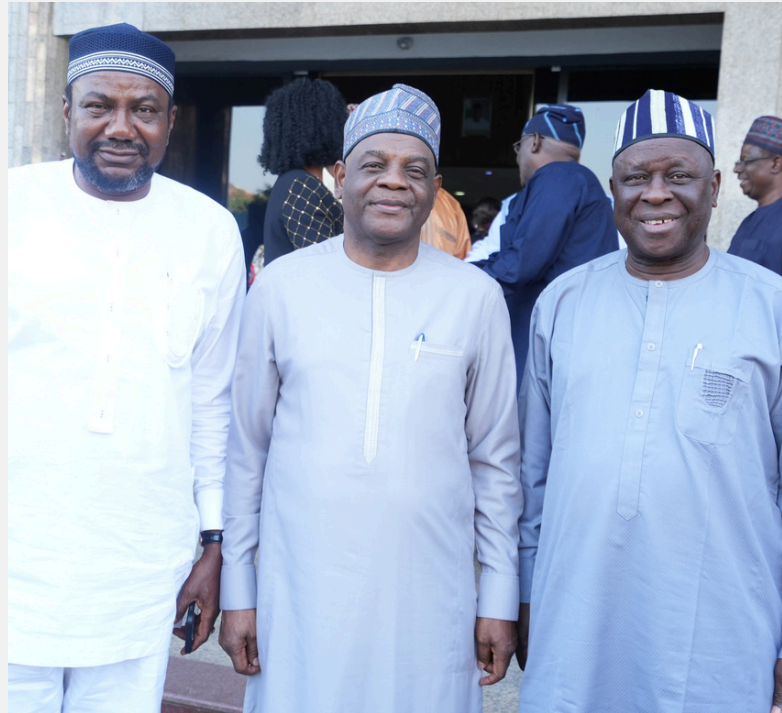
In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono welcomed Malam Yuguda and members of NOUN's Governing Council to TETFund, even as he commended them for their support for the university management.

Arc. Echono noted that since its establishment, NOUN has succeeded in bringing education closer to the people and made it easier for those who could not afford full time study to have access to education even while working.

While assuring that the Fund would continue to bolster its investments in quality and productive education to enable Nigeria fit into the global stage, he stated that the Fund would consider the peculiar needs of NOUN to ensure that study centres have necessary equipment and devices for seamless study.

In a brief remark, the Vice Chancellor of NOUN, Prof. Olufemi Peters also expressed appreciation to the Executive Secretary and his team for the support rendered to the university over the years, noting that the achievements recorded by the university under his tenure were due to TETFund's support.

He explained that NOUN was the size of about four mega universities in the country and would require huge support from TETFund to carry out its mandate effectively.



TETFund, PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE EXPLORE ENHANCED COLLABORATION ON NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

BY RIBADU MODIBBO ASMAU

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN) have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening collaboration on capacity development, public service training and educational advancement during a courtesy visit held at TETFund headquarters in Abuja.

The engagement brought together senior Management teams from both institutions in a renewed effort to align national training initiatives with the evolving needs of public servants and the tertiary education sector.

Delivering PSIN's presentation, the Chief Executive Officer, Barrister Ime Okon outlined the Institute's mission to develop a competent and values driven public service workforce. She stressed the importance of preparing public servants for life after service and proposed the introduction of an exit master class designed to equip staff at least five years before retirement with financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills and market readiness.

Highlighting the need for stronger synergy between universities and the public service, Barr Okon also proposed expanded sabbatical exchanges, collaborative policy research and strategies for converting academic findings into actionable government policies, adding that future oriented and anticipatory policy development is critical, if public institutions are to respond adequately to rapid technological and socio-economic changes.

She expressed readiness to deepen partnerships with TETFund on leadership development, compliance training, and pre-retirement planning. She outlined new PSIN frameworks, including SMART-P and LEAD-P, designed to equip civil servants with core competencies and prepare emerging leaders for higher responsibilities.



In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono stated the need for a transformative shift in Nigeria's public service to build a new generation of officers equipped to respond to rapid changes in governance, technology, and development challenges.

He requested the institute to develop a pool of officers that can respond to the fast-changing dynamics of governance and elevate the quality of their service to meet the changing needs of society, pointing out that in the fast-paced and disruptive environment, the public service must rise beyond routine administration to become an instrument for facilitating rapid development of the Nigerian economy and society.

Responding to the institute's proposals for broader collaboration, the Executive Secretary expressed the Fund's disposal to continuous professional development programmes, compliance training, and pre-retirement workshops for TETFund staff.

OVER N8BILLION COMMITTED TO RUFUS GIWA POLY BY TETFund

...COMMISSIONS N1.72B ICONIC PROJECTS

BY ERASMUS ALANEME

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has committed over N8.1billion as part of its direct allocations for various interventions in Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State.

Member, representing the South-West Zone on the TETFund Board of Trustees, Rt. Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju disclosed this while commissioning five iconic projects valued at N1.72billion as part of the 12th – 23rd Convocation Ceremonies of the Polytechnic.

Hon. Adepoju while noting the diligence of past and present management of the Polytechnic in executing TETFund sponsored projects, lauded them for having no abandoned or distressed projects within the campus of the Polytechnic.

He however warned against proliferation of state-owned tertiary institutions by State Governments who are not prepared to fund such institutions, pointing out that TETFund cannot do everything since it is an interventionist agency of the Federal Government charged with cushioning effect of the gap in funding and not carrying the whole responsibility.

According to him, “we are assembled here today for the commissioning of Five (5) iconic projects sponsored by TETFund, whose total cost is N1,725,730,426.38. You may wish to know also that from the start of TETFund interventions to this polytechnic, the Fund has allocated a total of N8,186,776,383.10 for infrastructure-based projects only. Out of this, a total of N5,576,638,910.74 have been accessed, leaving a balance of N2,610,137,472.37 most of which are already committed”



“As a Board, we are resolutely committed to ensuring that no projects of the Fund are abandoned, and this is why, in very recent time, the Board approved allocations to enable beneficiary institutions with distressed projects complete their projects without further delays. We are quite confident that with the augmentations granted by the Board of Trustees, those challenged projects will be completed for utilization by students and other stakeholders in the affected institutions.



“Our resolve as a Fund is to ensure that our interventions are sustained and improved upon as much as possible to enable our institutions undertake bigger, and more laudable and impactful projects that will make them become globally competitive and situate themselves in enviable positions among their peers both nationally and globally. We shall continually engage with our beneficiary institutions towards ensuring the delivery of iconic and impactful intervention projects in subsequent intervention years” he added.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono who was represented by Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Arc. Babatunde Olajide reiterated that the completion of any TETFund project is a testament to the shared commitment of advancing tertiary education in Nigeria and ensuring that our institutions are well positioned to deliver quality teaching, learning and research in conducive environments.

Seizing the opportunity to felicitate with the Polytechnic on the combined Convocation of Twelve sets of graduates from the 12th to 23rd sets, the Executive Secretary noted that the current times in our nation's economy have negatively impacted early delivery of projects in view of the volatility in market forces that have compelled institutions to seek reviews to their contracts.

While acknowledging this challenge, the TETFund scribe applauded institutions who, in the prevailing circumstance, have been resilient and focussed in delivering their projects while ensuring frugality and effective project management as they navigate around the challenge.

In his remarks, the Ag. Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Adegun Olurunwa did not mince words in appreciating the efforts of the Fund in ensuring the institution gets the needed infrastructure that is enabling it to deliver on its mandate of training students.

Dr. Olurunwa who described the interventions of TETFund in the Polytechnic as transformative, noted that the various funding from TETFund contributed to the growth of the institution since it became a beneficiary in 2011.

He listed some earlier completed TETFund projects, including the E-Testing Centre, 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 Lecture Theatres, Faculty Buildings for Agriculture and Social Sciences, and Computer Science Staff Offices, among others.

The Ag. Rector further appealed to TETFund to consider Rufus Giwa Polytechnic among beneficiaries of the 2026 Special Intervention and Special High Impact Intervention, which he said would help the school build a modern health centre and additional hostels for students.

Members of the TETFund team at the event include Alhaji Abdulmumin Oniyangi, Director, Public Affairs, Engr. Tunde Olakunri, Director, Executive Secretary's Office, Dr. Olushola Ojo who represented the South-West Zonal Office of TETFund, Dr. Abosede Bello from the Physical Infrastructure Department, Engr Oluwaseun Bello of the Monitoring and Evaluation Department among others.

TETFund Records New Milestones In Research, Unveils New Prototypes At TETFAIR

BY ISHOWO OLUWATOSIN



The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has recorded another impressive success in its drive to strengthen research and innovation in the country via its TETFund Alliance for Innovative Research (TETFAIR) programme.

Academic researchers from public tertiary institutions across the country unveiled prototypes developed under the initiative, during the closing ceremony held at Innov8 Hub, in Abuja recently.

The Executive Secretary, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono commended participants while restating the Fund's sustained commitment and investment in problem-solving research, innovation and development necessary for the nation's economic growth.

According to the Executive Secretary, many underestimate the role and impact of research in reduction of unemployment, alleviation of poverty, and socio-economic development, while adding that science, technology and innovation are capable of expanding opportunities for the nation and its people with adequate investment.

Recounting the journey towards commercialization of research in Nigeria by TETFund, he disclosed that the Fund launched the Research for Impact (R4i) programme and Transformative Innovation Workshop (TIW) in 2021, which later expanded to include TETFAIR in 2022, ASIP and SGCI supported programmes and INCUB8 programmes in 2024.



According to Echono “These interventions provide structured pathway for commercializing research. The numerous programmes in partnership with Innova8 Hub equip our researchers with technical support, mentorship, resources, and the right environment to transform groundbreaking ideas into viable, real-world solutions.

“The various programmes target key national priorities, including agriculture and food technology, environment, energy and circular economy, health and accessibility, information and communication technology, security, transportation and shipping, and production process improvement.”

At the ceremony, participants pitched their ideas and 11 teams unveiled their prototypes. Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, showcased a Rampokids, a nutritious cereal for children aged between ages 2 to 5 from locally sourced ingredients. Polytechnic of Ibadan revealed Funfit, a gamified fitness device that generates electricity as users exercise. Federal Polytechnic, Ede presented Powermantech, and Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti showcased Ecopave.

In addition, the University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo, Imo State pitched Agronova Dryer, a hybrid solar dryer. Modibbo Adama University presented Flo-Vend, an automated web-enabled menstrual materials vending machine, and Federal University of Agriculture, unveiled Tripleshield Agro, an eco-initiative pesticide solution.

Conclusively, Federal College of Education, Katsina, unveiled Agromech, a motorized hand guided two-row planter. Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, exhibited Solarmilkpro, a solar-powered milking machine; while Federal College of Education (Technical), Umunze, introduced Orufe, a cassava shredding machine. Federal College of Education, Pankshin, presented Agromareh, an AI-powered crop health monitoring device.

TETFund, UNDP Collaborate to Accelerate Innovation, and Digital Transformation in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions

BY MARIA JOSEPH

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to accelerate Nigeria's transition toward an innovation-driven, knowledge-based economy.

The agreement, which was signed on behalf of both organizations by the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono and the UNDP Resident Representative to Nigeria, Ms. Elsie Attafuah will strengthen universities and polytechnics as engines of research commercialisation, entrepreneurship, job creation, and technological advancement.

The partnership which will be implemented through the National Innovation and Digital Transformation Partnership Programme (NIDTPP) - a joint platform for programming, co-investment, technical collaboration, and ecosystem coordination will focus on five strategic areas which include institutionalising innovation across tertiary institutions; strengthening Nigeria's human capital base for transformative innovation; accelerating research commercialisation and frontier technology adoption; scaling access to sustainable financing for innovation; and strengthening evidence, policy, governance, and impact systems.

Speaking at the signing ceremony which took place at the TETFund Headquarters in Abuja, the UNDP Resident Representative to Nigeria, Ms. Elsie Attafuah described the collaboration as a defining moment not only for the organizations involved, but for Nigeria's journey towards becoming an innovation driven economy.



She described TETFund as a cornerstone of Nigeria's nation-building project, adding that its investments have strengthened infrastructure, expanded research, and enabled thousands of scholars to advance knowledge and national development.

Ms. Attafuah stated that UNDP was honoured to partner with TETFund in the next phase of the project, which deliberately advances innovation, digital transformation, and the knowledge economy across Nigeria's tertiary institutions.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono described the event as momentous, noting that it aligned with the Fund's commitment to transforming the educational landscape of the country by repositioning of educational curriculum to address the challenges of the future while equipping the youth with necessary skills.

Arc. Echono noted that the partnership would strengthen TETFund's mandate and expand its ability to deliver world-class innovation systems, research capacity, and job-creating ventures within Nigeria's tertiary education landscape.

He further stated that the partnership directly supports the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the National Development Plan, the Nigeria Startup Act, and National Digital and Youth Programmes.

Despite Economic Pressures, TETFund Recorded Significant Achievements in Project Development in 2025 – Echono

...EXPRESSES APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT TINUBU FOR PROMPT FUNDING APPROVALS

BY IJEOMA OBIAKOR

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has stated that the Fund recorded significant achievements in its various intervention lines in 2025 despite economic pressures arising from exchange rate fluctuations and rising projects costs; even as he expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for prompt approval of funding support for the development of tertiary education in the country.

The Executive Secretary stated this at the 2025 TETFund Management Retreat held in Yola from 17th to 19th, December 2025 with the theme “Advancing TETFund Mandate for Efficient Service Delivery in Beneficiary Institutions”.



He particularly applauded President Tinubu for the quick approval of TETFund's 2026 Intervention Guideline, saying "As I am speaking, even the 2026 Intervention Guidelines have been approved by Mr President, so we are ready to hit the ground running. That is why we are here to work out a strategy for effective implementation".

While noting that retreats serve as platforms for organizations and corporate entities to carry out self-appraisal as well as setting of new goals, he commended TETFund staff for their dedication and performance in meeting the Fund's obligation.

"During the year, quite a number of impactful projects were delivered by the Fund across institutions. The provision of solar-powered tricycles across institutions to ease transportation remains crucial. Content-based interventions were executed in several institutions by the Fund, the Special High Impact on expansion and doubling of quotas in medical sciences has taken off under the direction of the Hon Minister of Education in selected institutions.

"Apart from our vision for research and technological development in the country through some of the initiatives highlighted, two strategic initiatives will significantly reshape our intervention landscape: the establishment of Innovation Hubs across selected beneficiary institutions and the large scale Mini-Grid Power Project.

"The expectations placed on TETFund continue to grow. With decreasing Education Tax collections and increased demand in the tertiary sub-sector, we have been entrusted with greater responsibility to deliver transformative results. This retreat is not only about evaluating what has been done but envisioning what more must be done and how we must do it differently, better, faster and more transparently. Every project approved must be purposeful and aligned with national and institutional priorities," he said.

He therefore encouraged management Staff to actively participate, collaborate, and innovate to meet rising expectations and deliver transformative results for Nigeria's tertiary education sector.

While in Yola, the Executive Secretary and members of top management of the Fund paid a courtesy visit to the Executive Governor of Adamawa State, Rt. Hon Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, who commended the Fund for its impactful interventions in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria and expressed appreciation to management for its choice of Yola for the retreat.

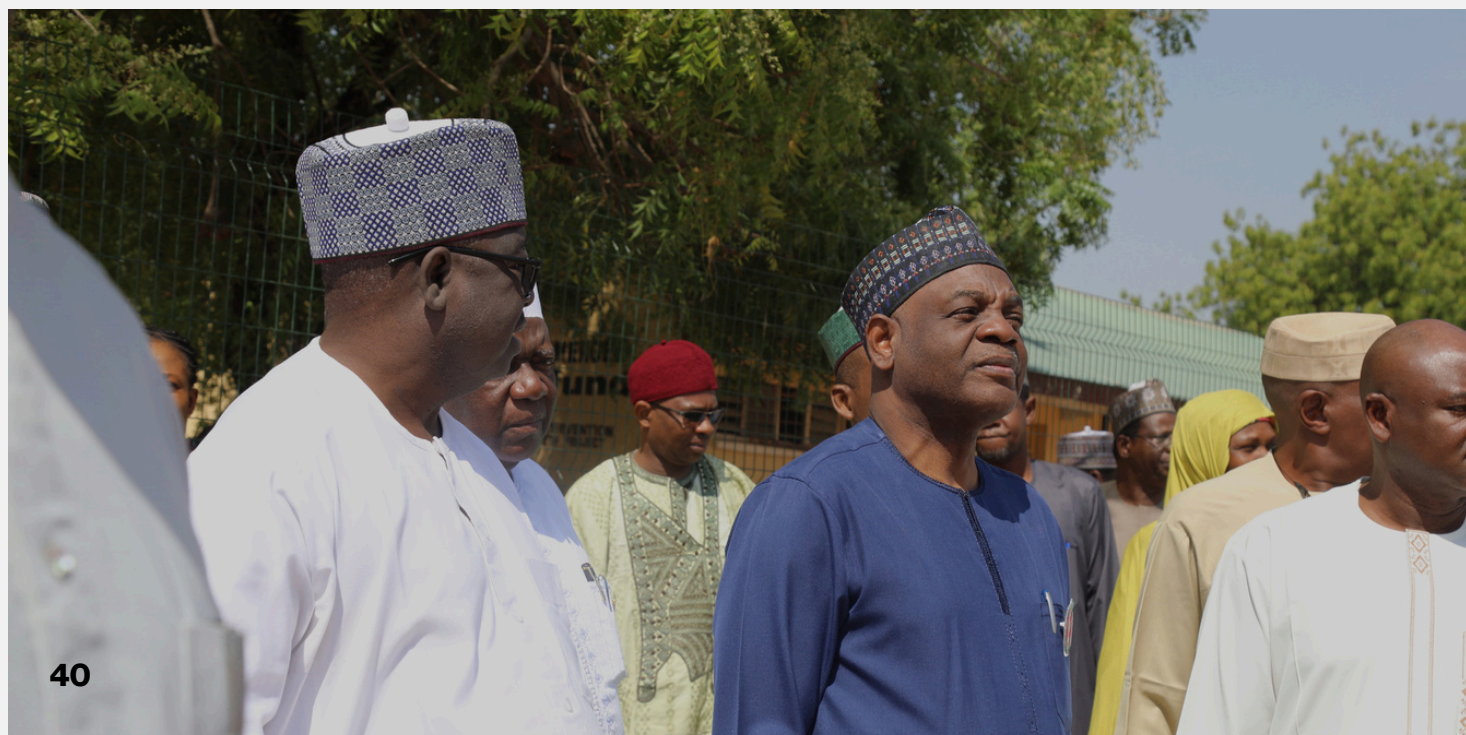


The Executive Secretary also inaugurated some completed TETFund-sponsored projects at Modibbo Adama University, Yola. The projects are the main building of the College of Medical Science, Lecture Theater I and II, College of Medical Science, College of Medical Science Library, the Main Building of Faculty of Law and Renovated University Veterinary Clinic.

Speaking during the Commissioning, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Ibrahim Umar commended the Executive Secretary and the entire management of the Fund for their visionary leadership and continued support to the university.

He, however, appealed for interventions in the construction of a comprehensive perimeter fence and installation of CCTV cameras, dedicated Senate Building, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, and Faculty of Arts.

In his remarks, Arc. Echono commended the Vice Chancellor for ensuring the completion and commissioning of the projects and assured of the Fund's continuous support and partnership in providing a quality and conducive environment for teaching and learning.



STAKEHOLDERS COLUMN

I-GEL 23: WHEN NIGERIAN INNOVATION MEETS THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

In Northern Nigeria, drought is not an abstract climate discussion; it is a lived reality. Fields dry up, yields decline, and communities are forced to adapt with limited tools. Addressing this challenge requires more than research papers; it demands solutions that can move decisively from the laboratory into the field.

This is where i-GEL 23 emerged, not only as a scientific innovation, but as proof of what happens when research is technically enabled, guided, and positioned for real-world impact.

Developed by a multidisciplinary team of Nigerian academics, Prof. Sanni Mohammed Yahaya (Aliko Dangote University of Science & Technology, Wudil) as Principal Investigator, alongside Dr. Hussaini Majiya (Babangida University, Lapai), Dr. Leonard Chimaobi Agim B (Federal University of Technology, Owerri), and Dr. Masud Eneji Sadiq (Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto)—i-GEL 23 is a hydrogel designed to retain soil moisture, reduce erosion, and enhance nutrient availability in drought-prone soils.

Yet, the journey from research insight to deployable solution required more than academic excellence. It required technical coordination, implementation structure, and commercialization foresight.

FROM RESEARCH POTENTIAL TO MARKET-READY SOLUTION

Under the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), supported by TETFund and global partners including IDRC, SIDA, NRF (South Africa), NORAD, DFG, and the UK's FCDO, i-GEL 23 was selected as one of four projects to transition from ideation to execution.



Innov8 Hub served as the technical implementation partner, playing a central role in ensuring that the research did not stall at proof-of-concept. The Hub provided a structured innovation pathway that translated academic findings into a solution capable of real-world application. By embedding the research within an innovation ecosystem, Innov8 Hub ensured that i-GEL 23 was developed with scalability, usability, and impact in mind.

“At Innov8 Hub, our role is to ensure that promising research does not end as documentation,” the Hub explains. “We focus on execution—building the bridge between academic insight and solutions that communities can actually use.”

A MODEL FOR AFRICA'S INNOVATION FUTURE

i-GEL 23 is not only a climate solution; it is a model—demonstrating how Africa's research institutions, funding bodies, and innovation hubs can work together to deliver impact.

As climate pressures intensify, the success of i-GEL 23 shows that Africa already has the talent and ideas it needs. What makes the difference is the presence of institutions that can facilitate, structure, and scale those ideas.

For Innov8 Hub, this is the mission: enabling research to move, grow, and matter.

And for communities facing the harsh realities of climate change, it is proof that solutions can (and are) being built from within.



PLANTING INNOVATION EARLY

HOW INNOV8 HUB IS SHAPING NIGERIA'S FUTURE THROUGH THE HOLIDAY BOOTCAMP

At Innov8 Hub, transformation does not begin with technology alone; it begins with intentional exposure. In communities where access to innovation tools is often delayed until adulthood, Innov8 Hub is taking a different approach: starting early. This philosophy gave birth to the Innov8 Holiday Bootcamp, a structured 10-day innovation program designed for children and adolescents aged 9 to 16, aimed at building future-ready skills while solving real community challenges.

The Bootcamp is not a recreational holiday activity. It is a deliberate community intervention; one that equips young Nigerians with technical literacy, creative confidence, and problem-solving skills at a stage where curiosity is highest, and limitations have not yet set in.

FROM CURIOSITY TO CAPABILITY

Over the course of the bootcamp, Innov8 Hub facilitated hands-on learning across four critical areas shaping Nigeria's future:

- Artificial Intelligence & Digital Literacy, where participants were introduced to how machines learn and how AI can be applied responsibly in everyday problem-solving.
- Creative Media and Design Thinking, helping young minds translate ideas into visuals, stories, and user-centered solutions.
- Upcycling and Environmental Sustainability, where participants converted waste materials into functional products, reinforcing sustainability as a practical habit rather than an abstract concept.



- Agritech and Smart Farming, exposing children to technology-driven agricultural solutions through guided experiments and demonstrations.

Each session was designed, delivered, and facilitated by the Innov8 Hub team, using age-appropriate tools, local case studies, and project-





Each session was designed, delivered, and facilitated by the Innov8 Hub team, using age-appropriate tools, local case studies, and project-based learning methods. The emphasis was not on theory, but on doing — building, testing, failing, and improving.

IMPACT AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

The impact of the bootcamp extended beyond the classroom. Participants left with:

- A clearer understanding of how technology can solve local problems.
- Practical skills they could apply in school and at home.
- Increased confidence to ask questions, build solutions, and think critically.

Parents and community members observed a noticeable shift; children who once consumed technology passively began to question, create, and innovate. In agritech sessions, for example, participants explored smarter ways to grow food sustainably, directly connecting innovation to food security and community resilience.

BUILDING A PIPELINE FOR NIGERIA'S INNOVATION ECONOMY

Innov8 Hub's long-term vision goes beyond a single bootcamp. By introducing innovation early, the Hub is intentionally building a pipeline of future creators, engineers, designers, and entrepreneurs who are grounded in local challenges and equipped to solve them.

The program reinforces Innov8 Hub's core belief: communities thrive when innovation is democratized. When young people are given early access to tools, mentorship, and safe spaces to experiment, innovation becomes inclusive, sustainable, and locally driven.

THE FUTURE IS LOCAL – AND IT STARTS EARLY

The Innov8 Holiday Bootcamp sends a powerful message: Nigeria's future innovators are already here, in classrooms, compounds, and communities across the country. What they need is exposure, guidance, and belief. By investing in children today, Innov8 Hub is not just shaping individual futures; it is strengthening communities, promoting sustainability, and laying the groundwork for a resilient innovation ecosystem.

This is how impact begins — not in waiting for the future, but in building it early.

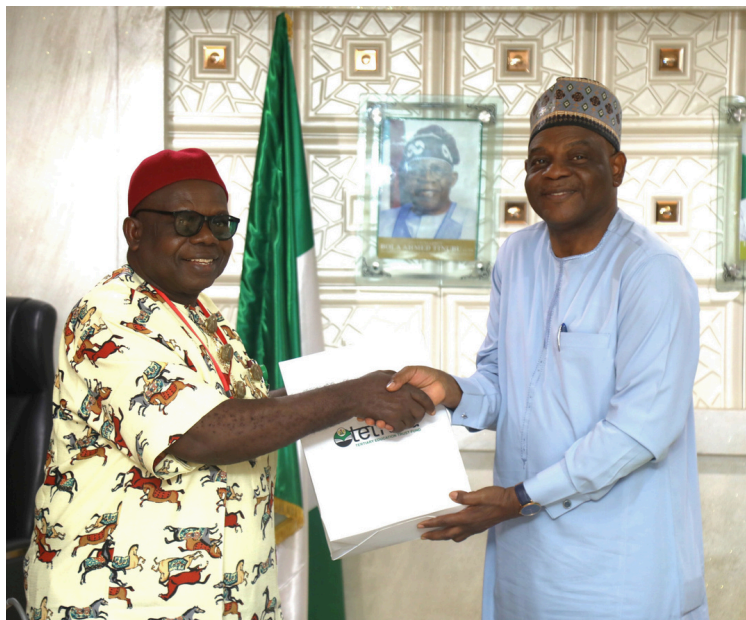
CAMPUS SECURITY WORKSHOP



BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY'S COURTESY CALL TO TETFund



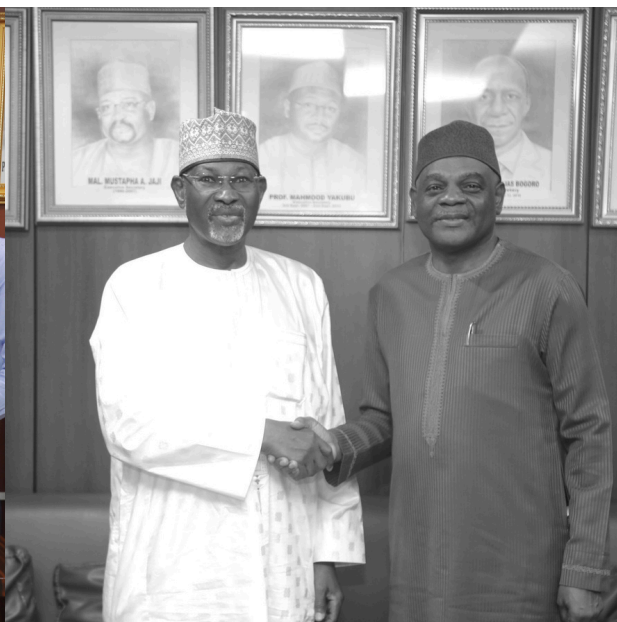
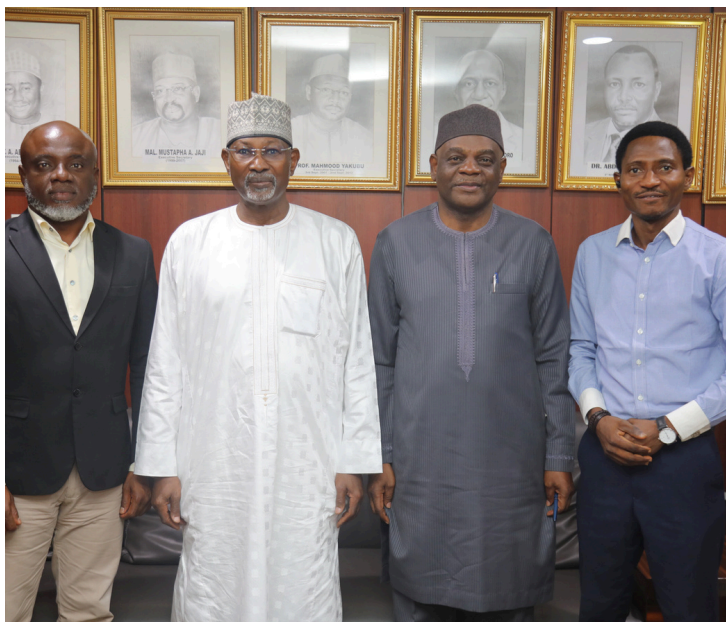
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NIGERIAN LANGUAGE'S COURTESY CALL TO TETFund



GROUP GENERAL MANAGER, CONTINENTAL HOTEL VISITS TETFund



PROF. ATTAHIRU JEGA PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO TETFund



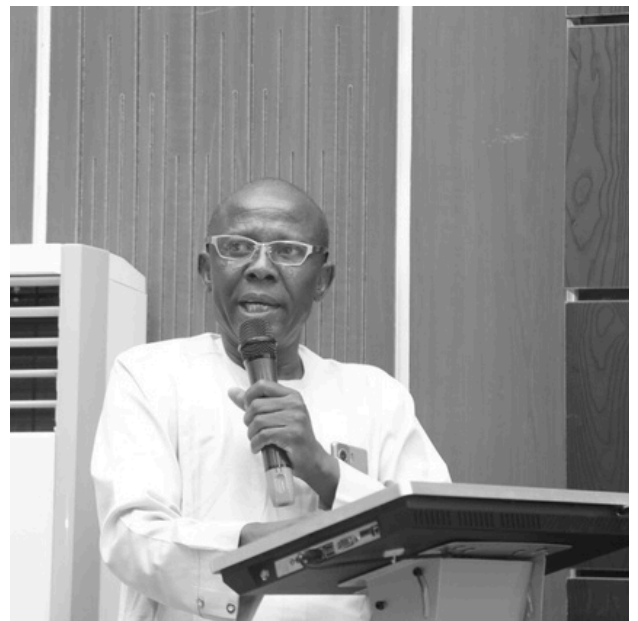
TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL'S (TRCN) COURTESY VISIT TO TETFund



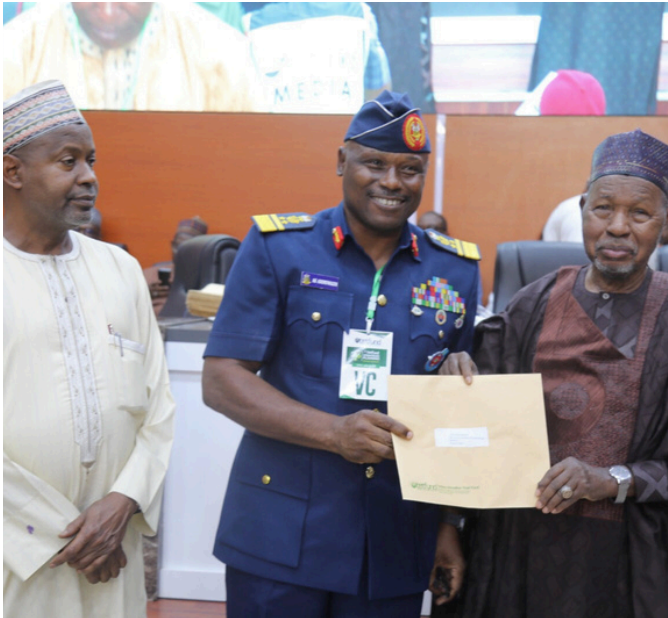
TETFund WINS 2025 SERVICOM AWARDS



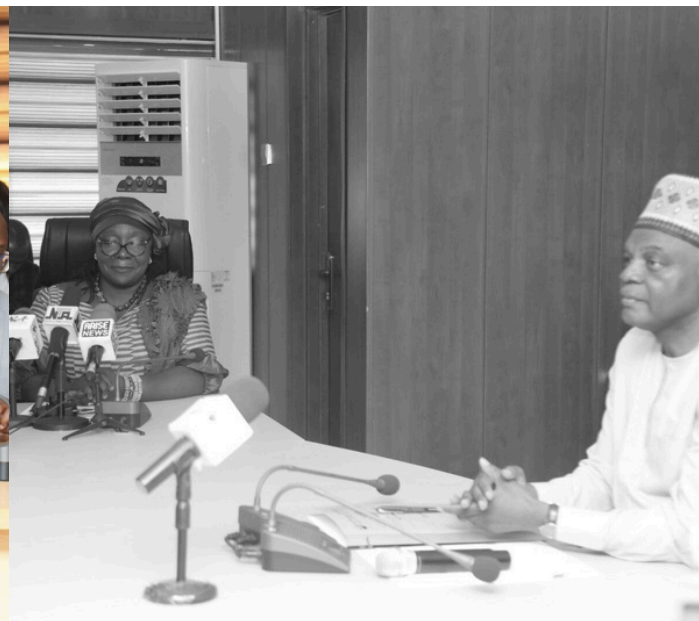
YEAR 2026 ANNUAL STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS



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TETFund- UNDP SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



2025 TETFund MANAGEMENT RETREAT IN YOLA



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COMMISSIONING OF THE FACULTY OF LAW COMPLEX AT MODIBBO ADAMAWA UNIVERSITY, YOLA



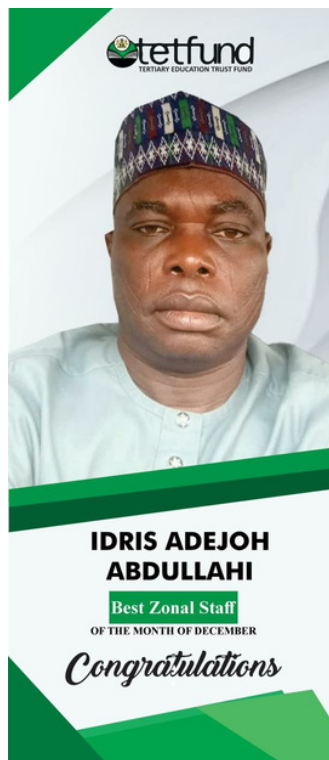
STAFF OF THE MONTH



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