

PANORAMA

ISSN 0331 - 8745

**TETFUND TO HOST 5-
DAY NATIONAL
RESEARCH FAIR AND
EXHIBITION**

**WE'LL BE AN EDUCATION
IMPROVEMENT AGENCY –
MASARI**

**FG INAUGURATES
TETFUND BOARD
OF TRUSTEES,
GOVERNING
COUNCILS OF
TERTIARY
INSTITUTIONS**

**TETFUND DENOUNCES ALLEGATION
OF DELIBRATE OMISSION OF
SCHOLARS' NAMES IN PRESIDENTIAL
BAILOUT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FG INAUGURATES TETFUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES, GOVERNING COUNCILS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS page 5



2024 TETFUND BOT RETREAT: PROMOTION OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORM FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS page 7

TETFUND DENOUNCES ALLEGATION OF DELIBERATE OMISSION OF SCHOLARS' NAMES IN PRESIDENTIAL BAILOUT page 9



PRESIDENT TINUBU SWEARS-IN WALSON-JACK AS HEAD OF SERVICE page 11

TETFUND TO SUSTAIN INVESTMENTS IN ARMY INSTITUTIONS - ECHONO page 13



ECHONO PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO NIGERIAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS page 15

FUNDING OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY page 16



STRIVE TOWARDS GREATER PERFORMANCE, ECHONO TASKS TETFUND STAFF page 17

INSECURITY BIG THREAT TO EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA - PERMANENT SECRETARY page 18

WE'LL BE AN EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT AGENCY - MASARI page 19



COMMITTEE OF GOVERNING COUNCILS OF FEDERAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION COMMENDS ECHONO FOR POSITIVE DISPOSITION TO TEACHER EDUCATION page 20

TETFUND TO HOST 5-DAY NATIONAL RESEARCH FAIR AND EXHIBITION page 22



EDITOR'S NOTE

It is a new dawn at the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR approved the inauguration of the Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari led TETFund Board of Trustees.

Sequel to the inauguration, the Board of Trustees held its first retreat in Lagos with issues surrounding the advancement of quality higher education delivery, innovative research and economic recovery in Nigeria forming the focus of discussions.

Details of the Board of Trustees' activities within the period are captured in this edition of TETFund Panorama for your reading pleasure.

Also featuring in this edition is TETFund's renewal of its commitment to research activities in the country. Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman during the quarter disclosed plans to host a 5-day TETFund National Research Fair/Exhibition at the Eagle Square in November. This is to showcase research discoveries, products and innovation, including cutting edge technologies developed by TETFund-sponsored scholars and researchers, and other Nigerian researchers and innovators.

The Fund has dispelled allegations of omission in its bailout programme by some lecturers. Details of this story is contained herein.

Worthy of note is the National Assembly's commendation of the Fund, via the Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund as well as the House of Representatives' Committee on TETFund. This commendation was made during the Board of Trustees Retreat in Lagos.

Insecurity has been identified as one of the biggest problems threatening the development of education in Nigeria. Find out details as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo also spoke during the 2024 TETFund Board of Trustees Retreat in Lagos.

The publication also features TETFund's effort to collaborate more closely with the Nigerian Army on Research and Development. The Executive Secretary of TETFund was at the Defence Headquarters where he held discussions with the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has sworn in erstwhile Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Mrs. Esther Didi Walson-Jack as the new Head of Civil Service of the Federation, with Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo taking over at the Ministry. Details in this edition.

The Committee of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Colleges of Education has commended the Fund's efforts to reform and reposition teacher education in Nigeria. This was made known during the committee's visit to the Fund.

Also in this edition is a call for improved staff performance by the Executive Secretary of TETFund. The full story of this and other events are contained in this interesting edition of TETFund Panorama.

A. B. Oniyangi
Editor



CONTRIBUTORS

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Dr. C. Ukim and Mrs. S. Nwankwo

PRODUCTION TEAM

<i>Amos Anetekhai</i>	<i>Aderoju Shitta</i>
<i>Chibugo Emodi</i>	<i>Adebayo Phillips</i>
<i>Michelle O. Imasuen</i>	<i>Hadiza A. Mamu</i>
<i>Tenidunni Aburi</i>	<i>Juliana I. Obiakor</i>
<i>Maimuna Fagade</i>	<i>Hyelkuzuku Ngadda</i>
<i>Abdulrazaq Ahmed</i>	<i>Abdulmalik Adio</i>
<i>Kayode J. Amoko</i>	<i>Muazzam S. Garo</i>
<i>Chidozie C. Nwangu</i>	<i>Michael Agu</i>
<i>Maria Joseph</i>	<i>Otonbara F. Aprebo</i>
<i>Oluwatosin Ishowo</i>	<i>Saadatu Salihu</i>
<i>Faith O. Eiche</i>	<i>Shehu Ibrahim</i>
<i>Jauro S. Mustapha.</i>	

FG Inaugurates TETFund Board of Trustees, Governing Councils of Tertiary Institutions

By Oluwatosin Ishowo



The Federal Government has inaugurated the Board of Trustees of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and Governing Councils of some federal tertiary institutions with a call on them to utilize their expertise to advance their respective institutions.

The inauguration ceremony was performed recently by the Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman at the TETFund Auditorium in Abuja.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Mamman congratulated the chairmen and members of the various Board and Governing Councils for their appointments with a reminder that the Federal Government had high expectations of them in addressing the challenges facing the tertiary education sub-sector.

While stating that their appointments were in recognition of their track records, established integrity, and experience, the Minister thanked them for accepting to join in the task of repositioning tertiary institutions for quality teaching and learning, research and community service.

Prof. Mamman also called attention to some challenges the Board and Governing Councils could face in their institutions such as low carrying capacity and instability of academic calendar arising from strikes embarked upon by unions over the years.

He disclosed that the government had met with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to address an impending strike by the union.

"We have had some meetings already. We spent some time on Wednesday discussing the issues, and we ended up developing a very robust plan to address them. We hope that what we put in place will help us avoid any form of strike in the universities," he said.

He also lamented the rising cost of electricity and the eventual disconnection of some institutions by service providers and assured that the Ministry of Education was collaborating with the Ministry of Power to address the challenge. He revealed that the Federal Government was exploring powering institutions with compressed natural gas (CNG) for uninterrupted power supply and cost effectiveness.



In his goodwill message, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono congratulated the TETFund Board of Trustees and Governing Councils of the various institutions on their inauguration.

He noted that the education sector is critical to national affairs as the foundation for all development efforts, and Nigeria with its fast-growing youthful population needed to equip them to ensure their contribution to national efforts.

Present at the inauguration was the ASUU President, Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke, who called for judicious utilization of funds accruing to TETFund to foster development, noting that the only thing sustaining public tertiary education in Nigeria remained TETFund.



Also present were the Executive Secretary of National Commission for Colleges of Education (NNCE), Prof. Paulinus Okwelle and Ag. Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC), Dr. Chris Mayaki who both assured the TETFund Board of Trustees and Governing Councils of their support in placing tertiary institutions in Nigeria in their pride of place.



2024 TETFund BOT Retreat: Promotion of Innovative Research for National Development form Focus of Discussions

...as Masari Reiterates Board's Commitment to Advancement of Higher Education

By Amos Anetekhai



Issues surrounding the advancement of quality higher education delivery, innovative research and economic recovery in Nigeria formed the focus of discussions at the 3-day 2024 Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Board of Trustees' Retreat held in Lagos recently, with stakeholders from the National Assembly, experts and academia in attendance to provide guidance for policy direction.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the retreat, the Chairman of the TETFund Board of Trustees (BOT), Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari reiterated the commitment of the board towards the improvement of higher education delivery and support for innovative research, as part of efforts geared towards revamping the Nigerian economy.

While noting that investment in education was critical to the development of the country with potential for addressing Nigeria's economic challenges, Rt. Hon. Masari urged members of the BOT to bring their wealth of experience to bear in contributing to the development of education.

He expressed assurance towards enhancing the value of education through the provision of necessary infrastructure in public tertiary educational institutions and making tertiary education more accessible to Nigerians irrespective of their social class.





The Chairman also requested for the support of TETFund management towards achieving the Fund's mandate and maximizing its impact, noting that their collaboration would go a long way in ensuring greater development of tertiary education in Nigeria.

Also speaking at the retreat while fielding questions from journalists, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono expressed the Fund's readiness to making more positive changes in the higher education sub-sector. He, however, challenged heads of Beneficiary Institutions on the need for quality and timely delivery of intervention projects in their various institutions.

"We have set a high standard for our universities and other higher institutions benefiting from our intervention projects. They must manage the resources given to them well. They must be efficient in their planning, accessing and managing the funds given them. They must be prompt in dealing with contractors. We don't want any wasting of time that would let our projects be caught up in the web of inflation.

"They must also up their supervision mechanisms. We are also introducing more efficient supervision mechanisms. The projects must be of optimal quality. They should also take advantage of the opportunities we are giving them in the area of research, innovation, entrepreneurship among others. We are also encouraging them to be able to improve on the revenue generation so that they won't be too dependent regarding funding," he said.

Speakers at the retreat included the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, former Executive Secretaries of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Peter Okebukola and Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, Managing Director of Rural Electrification Agency, Alhaji Abba Abubakar Aliyu, former Vice-Chancellor University of Nigeria, Prof. Charles Igwe, Pioneer Vice-Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria, Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede, Innovation Consultant, Mr. Tope Toogun, a medical expert, Prof. Olawale Sulaiman and Chairman of TETFund's Committee on National Research Fair/Exhibition, Dr. (Engr.) Umar Bindir.

The retreat also featured presentations by the various departments of the Fund.

TETFund Denounces Allegation of Deliberate Omission of Scholars' Names in Presidential Bailout

By Amos Anetekhai

The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has denounced allegations by a group of Nigerian lecturers of deliberate omission of 600 names from the bailout approved by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for stranded TETFund scholars abroad,

The Fund also condemned allegations made in the media by one Kamal Adewole Saka, a lecturer at Federal University, Oye Ekiti, who was awarded a TETFund scholarship for Ph.D programme in Psychology at Girne American University, Cyprus to the tune of N27,573,350.00, that staff of the Fund "embezzled his N10 million scholarship grant" when, in actual sense, his full tuition had been paid directly to his institution of study.

In a press statement signed by TETFund's Director of Public Affairs, Abdulmumin Oniyangi, the Fund stated that although it had earlier reported expending over N3.8 billion as bailout to about 1500 stranded Nigerian scholars studying abroad under the TETFund Scholarship for Academic Staff (TSAS) programme, in compliance with Mr. President's directive, it became imperative to give detailed background and steps taken by the Fund to address the disinformation being peddled by the scholars, particularly the said Kamal Adewole Saka.



While giving a background of the TSAS programme, including challenges discovered from previous inspection and verification exercises on the implementation of the programme which included complaints about delays in release of Funds by scholars' home institutions; fluctuations in foreign exchange due to non-operation of a domiciliary account by the home institutions among others, the Fund introduced some policy changes to address the challenges.

On steps taken by TETFund on the financial bailout of affected scholars, the Fund requested from its beneficiary institutions status update of all lecturers on its scholarship programme with a view to reconciling its records and addressing genuine and verifiable challenges.

PANORAMA

The request comprised details of scholars that have completed their studies, scholars that absconded, details of scholars with extension on approved duration of studies, evidence of operation of domiciliary account for the foreign exchange component of the programme among others. However, the feedback from beneficiary institutions on the request was not impressive.

"The Honourable Minister of Education (HME), vide a letter No FME/PSE/720/C.2/IV/713, dated 30th October, 2023 conveyed the approval for the processing of bailout requests received from Beneficiary Institutions in respect of the compilation of shortfalls in tuition and upkeep earlier approved in favour of the concerned and verified scholars with a view to addressing their financial challenges.

"All TETFund beneficiary institutions were communicated to compile/ collate all eligible scholars for bailout and forward same to the Fund for compliance with the Minister's approval.

"Sequel to the Honourable Minister's approval, the total number of scholars processed for bailout stands at 1,476 and the sum of N3,897,282,932.00 was processed and disbursed in favour of concerned scholars. (that is, On-going Masters and Ph.D programmes only)

"It is pertinent to mention that the bailout was an extra budgetary expenditure, and as such, the Fund sought for the approval of the Honourable Minister of Education (HME) in the absence of the Board of Trustees to utilize the stabilization funds in offsetting part of the variations in tuition and upkeep allowance.

JULY 2024 - SEPTEMBER 2024

"The bailout processed so far was activated based on substantiating documents presented in favour of concerned scholars," the statement read in part.

Providing clarification on the case of Kamal Adewole Saka, the Fund stated that he was awarded the scholarship to Girne American University on 11th November, 2020 and that his approved tuition fees of Euros 8,872.50 had been paid to the university as at 3rd November, 2022, while his upkeep and other allowances were disbursed in full to his home institution, Federal University Oye Ekiti in 2020 in line with extant schedules.

"The tuition fees of Kamal Adewole Saka were paid in two tranches based on invoices sent by the scholar: Euros 5,250 on 11th February, 2021 and Euros 3,622.50 on 1st April, 2021. However, the scholar notified the Fund in 2022 of non-receipt of the first tranche and after investigations with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the bank notified us that the payment failed. A fresh invoice was requested from Mr. Saka and this was used to re-process the payment of Euros 5,250.00. The Fund has evidence of payment and status of the scholar's account from Girne American University, showing that tuition fees has been fully paid as at 3rd November, 2022.

"It is therefore inappropriate for Mr. Saka to resort to malicious and misleading publications to spread cheap lies when payments of tuition fees for scholars abroad are made through the CBN and not individual staff bank accounts," the Fund stated.

PRESIDENT TINUBU SWEARS-IN WALSON-JACK AS HEAD OF SERVICE



...as Sani-Gwarzo Assumes Office as Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education

By Amos Anetekhai

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has sworn in erstwhile Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education, Mrs. Esther Didi Walson-Jack as the new Head of Civil Service of the Federation, with a charge to serve the nation with integrity and transparency.

This is even as the President paid tribute to the immediate past Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan, whose tenure he described as exceptional.

In a statement released by the then Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Chief Ajuri Ngelale, President Tinubu commended the outgone Head of Service for her commitment and vision.

"We must learn from her commitment to duty, loyalty, and great vision. She served our nation exceptionally well with dedication, guiding the civil service through significant transformation and reforms. Her dedication to enhancing efficiency, transparency, and professionalism has set a high standard for public administration in this country.

"As she steps down, we express our deep gratitude for her unwavering commitment and the significant impact she has made in our country. We thank you very much," the President stated.

↓ Speaking to journalists after the swearing-in, Mrs. Walson-Jack expressed appreciation to President Tinubu for the confidence reposed in her.

She also thanked the outgoing Head of Service, Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan for her mentorship and guidance throughout her career and said she looked forward to building on the existing reforms in a way that would bring innovation and creativity, so that the civil service could be more effective and efficient to deliver on the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President.

It would be recalled that Mrs. Walson-Jack assumed office as Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education in January 2024, following the retirement of her predecessor at the Ministry, Mr. David Andrew Adejo, and served until her appointment as Head of Service.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo has assumed office as the new Permanent Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education, following the appointment of Mrs. Walson Jack as Head of Service.

Speaking during a farewell ceremony, the new Head of Service, Mrs. Walson-Jack expressed confidence in Dr. Gwarzo's ability to consolidate on the achievements recorded during her tenure.

She expressed profound appreciation to the Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, Minister of State, Dr. Tanko Yusuf Sununu, and other staff of the Ministry for their support during her tenure.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the new Permanent Secretary Dr. Sani-Gwarzo commended Mrs. Walson-Jack for her administrative skills and efforts at the Ministry.

While requesting the support of staff of the Ministry to ensure continued success of the Ministry, Dr. Sani-Gwarzo pledged to build upon the achievements of his predecessor.

TETFund to Sustain Investments in Army Institutions - Echono

By Ishowo Oluwatosin



The Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has expressed the commitment of the Fund towards sustaining its investments in Nigerian Army Institutions.

Arc. Echono stated this when he led top management of TETFund on a courtesy visit to the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa at the Defence Headquarters in Abuja.

According to the Executive Secretary, the military has been a frontline contributor to the nation's education, spanning across decades of investment, impact and presence, noting that it has risen to the occasion of protecting educational institutions amidst recent multidimensional insecurity bedeviling the country.

The Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has expressed the commitment of the Fund towards sustaining its investments in Nigerian Army Institutions.

"The military establishment has been so supportive of our educational institutions, and we thank you for your service to our country. We thank you for the huge sacrifice that is being made to ensure that education continues even in times of conflict and difficult environments. We also want to commend the fact that we have seen a real slowdown in the rates of such challenges in the recent past. We can ensure that schools run without disruptions and unsavory incidents of attacks by either militants or kidnappers.



"In the area of research and development, we see it as a major frontier for collaboration; because research into security services and development of our defence industries and being able to service that sector is one area that we can express our national aspirations as a people," he said.

The TETFund Boss particularly eulogized the military on foiling kidnap attempts and militant attacks on campuses, while reiterating the Fund's commitment to sustaining support and funding for Nigerian Defence Academy, Army University, Biu, among others.

Responding, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Musa restated the military's commitment to education and development in the country, citing it as a bedrock for nation building.

The CDS advocated for partnership between the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) and TETFund in areas of research and development and noted that DICON will be open to more collaborations as it aspires to be a leading ammunition and device industry.

While appreciating the Fund's support to the NDA and other Army institutions, General Musa stated that TETFund's support has significantly enhanced Army Institutions' capacity and ability to achieve more.

"What you are doing has enhanced the capacity of the education system. For the Armed Forces, we can only continue to appreciate what you are doing. Everywhere we have our men, one of the key areas we told them is to make sure the schools are secure because without that, as a nation we can't move forward," he said.



ECHONO PAYS GLOWING TRIBUTE TO NIGERIAN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

By Ijeoma Obiakor

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has paid glowing tribute to Nigerian medical practitioners for their commitment to serving the Nation despite the challenging environment.

Arc. Echono spoke when the leadership of the Nigerian Academy of Medicine (NAMed) paid a courtesy visit to him at the Fund's office in Abuja.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary commended the Academy for its service to the Nation, noting the numerous works being carried out by members of the health community in Nigeria.

He particularly acclaimed the patriotism of medical practitioners in the country, who despite the lack of equipment, inadequate remuneration and other challenges chose to make the sacrifice of staying back home to address the health and well-being of Nigerians.

Reacting to the Academy's request for support of its journal publication, Arc. Echono assured that the Fund would be willing to fund the publication to the maximum ceiling allowable by the Fund.

He also advised the Academy to consider engaging the use of indigenous printing outfits for its publication to reduce costs arising from high foreign exchange rate.

While noting that a number of its members have been engaged in various TETFund committee works, the Executive Secretary stated that the Fund looked forward to more rewarding collaboration with the Academy.

Speaking earlier, the President of the Academy, Prof. Samuel Ohaegbulam expressed appreciation to TETFund for granting the Academy audience.

He noted that the purpose of the visit was to seek for areas of collaboration with the Fund and also seek support for the Academy's journal publication.

Giving a brief history of NAMed, Prof. Ohaegbulam stated that the Academy aims to serve as an independent, dynamic and innovative national resource of excellence and expertise in medical sciences and healthcare.

He highlighted some of the Academy's objectives which he said include promoting the knowledge of Medical Sciences in Nigeria and its practical application to problems of national welfare, as well as promoting excellence by the recognition and encouragement of merit in all branches of Medical Sciences.

Other objectives, he said are securing co-ordination between medical and other scientific academies, societies, associations, institutions and Government medical and scientific departments and services; seeking help and co-operation of international agencies and national bodies of other countries, among others.

FUNDING OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION KEY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

By Amos Anetekhai

The National Assembly has thrown its weight behind increased funding of higher education and innovative research, noting that they are key to the socio-economic development of the country.

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, Senator, Muntari Dandutse made this known while speaking at the 2024 TETFund Board of Trustees Retreat held in Lagos recently.

While conveying the goodwill of the National Assembly to the TETFund Board of Trustees, he noted the importance and timeliness of holding the retreat with critical stakeholders such as the National Assembly participating.

“We are having this retreat for the first time under the Executive Secretary of TETFund, the leadership of the Board of Trustees and members of the National Assembly. I think it is timely and very important.

“Education is key to the success of each and every country in the world. No matter what is invested in education, I believe it is worth any penny. Considering the population we have in Nigeria, we need to invest more, and we are glad that the Executive Secretary has started to lay a good foundation by involving critical stakeholders such as the National Assembly and leadership of the regulatory bodies.

“If you look at Britain, Germany and most of the developed countries, they started with education. They fund research, innovation and inventions in most of their key areas - in education, agriculture, science and innovation. So, I think it is important to look forward to value addition of funds available and also look forward to increase in terms of funding education,” he said.



On her part, the Chairperson of the House of Representatives' Committee on TETFund, Hon. Princess Miriam Onuoha commended the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono for his efforts at repositioning the Fund and organizing the retreat.

While also stating the importance of education to economic development, she assured of the committee's continued support for the Fund's activities.

“Pursuant to the mandate of the committee, I would like to restate that our committee remains resolute in our conviction that once we get the education of our people right, we will definitely get our development right; and indeed, place our country back on the right trajectory.

“We have the strong belief that robust deliberation on the theme of this retreat by the stakeholders gathered here today, will further distill the ‘Renewed Hope’ deliverables to a more detailed implementation with turnaround strategies that will not only be measurable but capable of providing results that will also be visible to the Nigerian public,” she said.

STRIVE TOWARDS GREATER PERFORMANCE, ECHONO TASKS TETFUND STAFF

By Amos Anetekhai

The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono has tasked staff of the Fund to strive towards greater performance, even as he acknowledged that their contributions over the years have placed TETFund as a high-flying agency of the Federal Government as attested to by various stakeholders.

The Executive Secretary gave the charge recently while speaking at a two-day training on Performance Management System for supervisory staff of TETFund organized by the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation at the TETFund Headquarters in Abuja.

While stating that the Fund's contributions to the development of public tertiary institutions and the country's economic recovery efforts have been widely acknowledged by various stakeholders, Arc. Echono maintained that there was absolute need to strive towards further improvements in the Fund's processes, as there were greater expectations of performance from government, taxpayers and the public at large.

Speaking on the new Performance Management System (PMS) in Nigeria's Public Service, the Executive Secretary stated that the system marked a pivotal step towards enhancing efficiency by improving productivity.

"The PMS will provide a robust platform for alignment of individual performance with organizational goals which will in turn foster a culture of excellence and improve the efficiency of the Service." Echono

"A well-implemented PMS will bring about significant benefits such as increased productivity, clearer performance expectations, measurable outcomes, more effective utilization of public resources as well as improved service delivery.

"As we commence implementation of the Performance Management System in the Fund, the focus must remain on fostering a culture of performance excellence. The PMS should be viewed as a dynamic system that requires ongoing evaluation. Regular feedback and adjustments will ensure that the system is constantly evolving in response to emerging challenges and opportunities, maintaining its relevance and effectiveness," he stated.



INSECURITY BIG THREAT TO EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA - PERMANENT SECRETARY

By Amos Anetekhai

The Permanent Secretary of Federal Ministry of Education, Dr. Nasir Sani-Gwarzo has identified insecurity as one of the biggest problems threatening the development of education in Nigeria, with a call on the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to join efforts in tackling the menace.

Dr. Sani-Gwarzo spoke while delivering a paper titled “Re-emerging Education in the Renewed Hope Agenda: The Role of Education in National Development” at the 2024 TETFund Board of Trustees Retreat held in Lagos recently.

The Permanent Secretary revealed that the Ministry of Education was working on new initiatives including workable models aimed at addressing the problem of insecurity in schools across the country.

While emphasizing the need for investment in security including training, Dr. Sani-Gwarzo asked rhetorically: “Have we dedicated funds to support the universities that we are building? Have we discussed as TETFund how do we finance the fighting of insecurity?”

“How many of you have been trained on what to do in case of bomb blast, shooting or kidnapping? Do you have prior knowledge?”

“Believe me it works, if you train people on what to do. So, I am appealing to TETFund; we are coming up with so many new initiatives including addressing insecurity in schools. We will send the prototype; use models that have worked in the world, but we are going to adapt them to local situation.

“It is not a one-size-fits-all; every location has its security needs but we will give the generic roadmap and apply maximum pressure until everything is implemented and our schools are made safe again,” he assured



WE'LL BE AN EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT AGENCY – MASARI

By Amos Anetekhai

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari has assured Nigerians that the newly inaugurated BOT of the Fund would strive towards further improving the public tertiary education sector through implementation of impactful programmes.

Rt. Hon. Masari stated this during the inauguration of the Board of Trustees of TETFund and Governing Councils of some Federal Government tertiary educational institutions at the TETFund Auditorium in Abuja recently.

The Chairman who spoke on behalf of members of the TETFund BOT, as well as Chairmen and members of the newly inaugurated Governing Councils expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the appointments.

He noted that with the calibre of persons appointed by the President to the TETFund Board and Governing Councils of other institutions, he was confident that the education sector would benefit immensely, with the right investments in place.

“If this country can invest all it has in education, the nation will be better for it. For us, we should count ourselves as very lucky, but only if we do what we are expected to do.

Lucky in the sense that any investment in education; be it resources, time, intellect or energy, there is no investment better than it. So, we should be grateful to Mr. President for giving us the opportunity to serve,”

“We need a new direction. For us at TETFund, we are not going to be a contract awarding agency; we are going to be an education improvement agency.

“We thank Mr. President, and we assure Nigerians that with the calibre of appointees I am seeing, education sector is going to benefit tremendously from their experiences,” Masari

Rt. Hon. Masari also expressed gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman who performed the inauguration ceremony, heads of agencies and others who were part of the inauguration ceremony.



COMMITTEE OF GOVERNING COUNCILS OF FEDERAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION COMMENDS ECHONO FOR POSITIVE DISPOSITION TO TEACHER EDUCATION

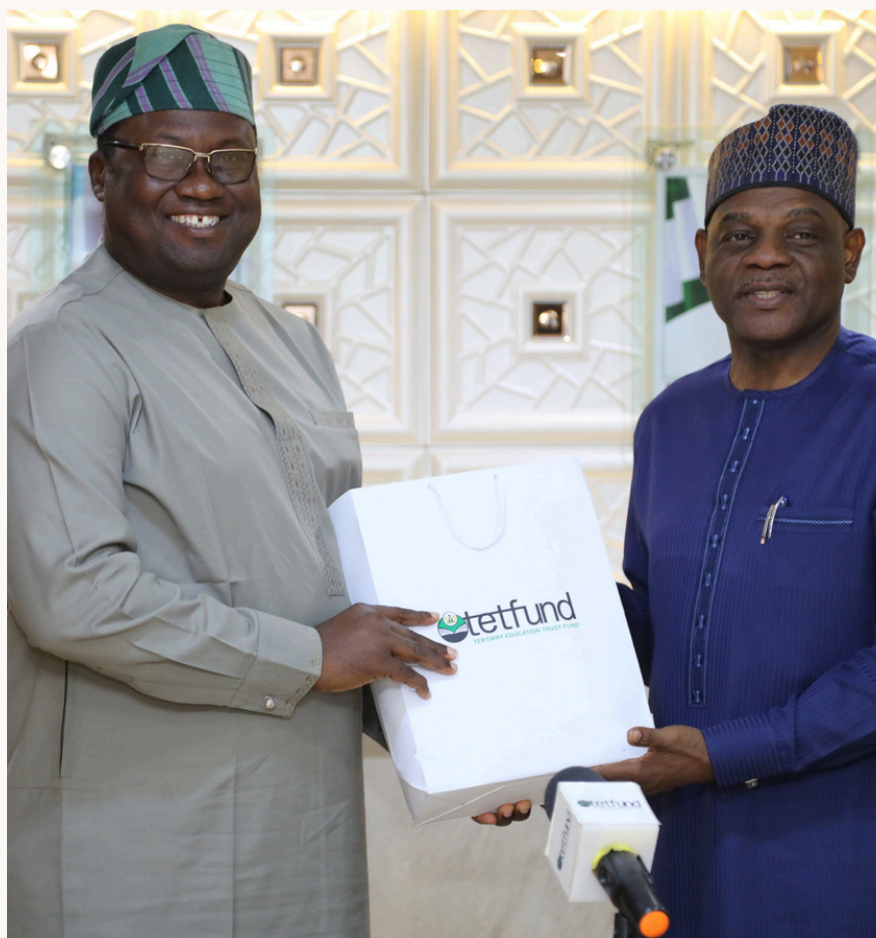
By Muazzam Garo

The Committee of Chairmen of Governing Councils of Federal Colleges of Education has commended the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Arc. Sonny Echono for his positive disposition to teacher education in Nigeria.

Chairman of the forum, Professor Francis Faduyile, who is also the Chairman Governing Council of the Federal College of Education, Kotangora, Niger State, stated this when he led the leadership of the committee on a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary at the TETFund Headquarters in Abuja recently.

Prof. Faduyile also used the opportunity to express appreciation to President Bola Tinubu for their appointments to the Governing Councils of the colleges.

"We wish to also appreciate His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR for finding us worthy to be appointed as Chairmen of the Governing Councils of our Federal Colleges of Education.



"We wish to also appreciate His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR for finding us worthy to be appointed as Chairmen of the Governing Councils of our Federal Colleges of Education.

"We have started with our duties in different colleges, we have also interacted with the Committee of Provosts, Assembly of Registrars and Committee of Bursars. We have also interacted with the National leadership of the four Unions COEASU, SSUCOEN, NASU and NACETON," he said.

The Chairman stated that while the Executive Secretary may be conversant with some of the challenges facing colleges of education in Nigeria, certain issues came up during their interactions with the various stakeholders, which they considered worthy of sharing with the TETFund boss.

He identified some of the issues as approval of teaching practice payment, support for special education and upgrade of laboratories, take off grants for newly established colleges of education, training and maintenance contracts on equipment supplies and funding for training and research.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono expressed appreciation to the committee for the visit and also congratulated them on their appointments.

He stated that the Fund previously had consultations with COEASU and heads of institutions and initiated an increase in teaching practice allowance, and the government brought a policy to reposition the teaching profession in Nigeria.

Regarding the issue of special education, Arc. Echono stated that the Fund had introduced a new intervention line to address special education and would commence this year with the Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo and four other institutions.

An allocation of a billion Naira has been earmarked for intervention at the Federal College of Education (Special) Oyo, and other four identified beneficiary institutions.



TETFUND TO HOST 5-DAY NATIONAL RESEARCH FAIR AND EXHIBITION

By Ishowo Oluwatosin



The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) has disclosed plans to host a 5-day National Research Fair/Exhibition at the Eagle Square in Abuja to showcase research discoveries, products and innovation, including cutting edge technologies developed by TETFund-sponsored scholars and researchers, and other Nigerian researchers and innovators.

The Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman announced this at a press briefing organized at the Ministry of Education Headquarters in Abuja recently.

According to the Minister, the event is scheduled to hold from 17-21 November 2024, and it is aimed at bringing together researchers, inventors and innovators as a way of addressing some of the challenges facing the country.

Prof. Tahir noted that the event was in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu aimed at resuscitating the economy.

“In line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President, which mainly aims at ‘rebooting’ the economy through the massive generation of jobs, creation of wealth, and improvement of the general welfare of Nigerians, TETFund is organizing a strategic research fair to gather and showcase many of the concluded practical research results and technologies that can be manufactured and/or are scalable, and also to encourage Nigerians.”

He revealed that participation at the exhibition was free and accessible to the public, while calling on all to participate and present ideas, technologies and products that could enhance businesses and transform the country.

Speaking at the Press Briefing, the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono appreciated the Minister for his leadership, support and keying into the Fund’s drive to promote research and innovation.

Arc. Echono stressed that the Fund was determined to harmonize efforts towards ensuring that Nigeria harnesses all its potentials and project all the achievements that have been recorded in the area of innovation and creativity to the global audience for investment opportunities.

He noted that the fair was not limited to TETFund Beneficiary Institutions, hence research institutes, private inventors and digital creators that had new innovations that could lead to the creation of jobs, development of products and services, or the improvement of the lives of Nigerians could participate.

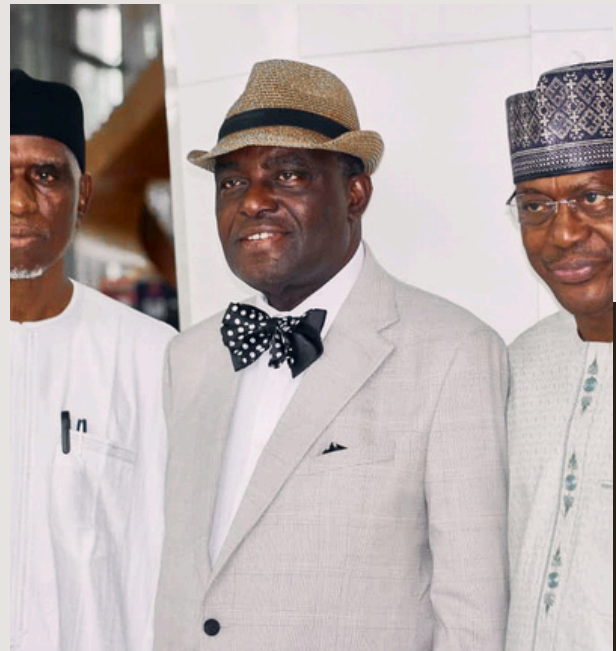
TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT RETREAT



TETFund BOT INAUGURATION



TETFund BOT INAUGURATION



TETFund BOT INAUGURATION



COURTESY CALL BY NIGCOMSAT



EDUCATION CORRESPONDENTS' VISIT TO TETFund



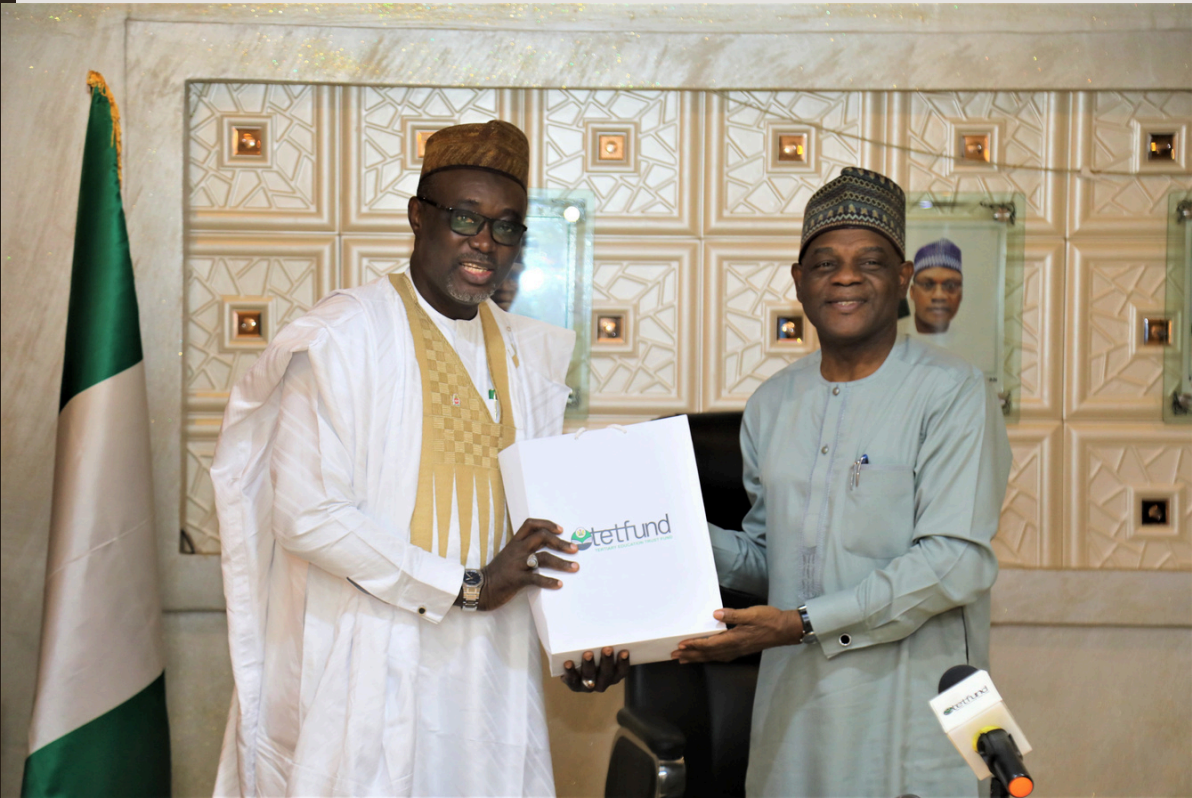
MEETING WITH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CHARACTER



COURTESY CALL BY THE ABUJA LEADERSHIP CENTRE



COURTESY CALL BY THE COMPUTER
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION COUNCIL



TETFund NATIONAL RESEARCH FAIR COMMITTEE VISIT TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



MINISTERIAL PRESS BRIEFING ON TETFund RESERCH FAIR



SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON EMERGING AREAS OF STUDENTS' NEEDS IN BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS



SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON EMERGING AREAS OF STUDENTS' NEEDS IN BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS



NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE VISIT TO TETFund



2ND GENERAL STAFF MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



ECAN SENSITIZATION ON TETFund ACTIVITIES



STAFF TRAINING ON PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PMS)





TETFAIR

STAKEHOLDERS' COLUMN



THE 10 FACES OF INNOVATION

Innovation is more than just a buzzword. It is a mindset, a strategic pathway, and a powerful force for transforming industries and societies. In Tom Kelley's book *The Ten Faces of Innovation*, Kelley unveils ten personas that organizations can adopt to foster a culture of innovation. At Innov8 Hub, these personas resonate deeply as we pursue our mission to empower individuals, startups, and established organizations to unravel their potential. Let's explore how the "faces" outlined by Kelley align with the core goals of Innov8 Hub.

1. The Anthropologist:

The Anthropologist observes the world with fresh eyes, seeking out insights that others miss by immersing themselves in the user's experience. At Innov8 Hub, this mindset is critical. We champion human-centered design, encouraging entrepreneurs and innovators to truly understand the needs of their target audience. Whether in product design, services, or community solutions, we place great emphasis on empathy and deep observation.

2. The Experimenter:

Innovation demands a willingness to try new things, and the Experimenter embodies this spirit. Innov8 Hub thrives on experimentation, providing startups and innovators with a safe space to test, prototype, and iterate their ideas. Whether through hands-on workshops or dedicated maker spaces, our goal is to nurture this curiosity-driven approach to problem-solving.



3. The Cross-Pollinator:

Innovation often thrives at the intersection of disciplines. The Cross-Pollinator draws inspiration from diverse fields, transferring knowledge and techniques to create breakthroughs. At Innov8 Hub, we actively encourage collaboration across sectors, bringing together experts from technology, arts, science, and business. Our incubator programs foster interdisciplinary thinking to cultivate novel solutions that bridge gaps in unexpected ways.

4. The Hurdler:

Challenges and obstacles are inevitable on the path to innovation. The Hurdler embraces these barriers, viewing them as opportunities for growth rather than setbacks. At Innov8 Hub, we teach resilience and resourcefulness, reminding our community that roadblocks are part of the journey to success. Through mentoring and structured problem-solving sessions, we help innovators turn obstacles into launching pads for creative solutions.

5. The Collaborator:

Collaboration is the heartbeat of innovation. The Collaborator brings teams together, helping them leverage their collective strengths. Innov8 Hub's coworking spaces and networking activities are designed to promote this spirit of collaboration. By fostering strong partnerships between innovators, investors, and industry experts, we create an ecosystem where shared ideas can evolve into transformative solutions.

6. The Director:

Just as a film director orchestrates actors, settings, and action, we coordinate the elements that bring ideas to life. At Innov8 Hub, we play this role by guiding projects from concept to execution. We offer strategic direction, ensuring that ideas are developed with a clear vision, actionable goals, and an efficient business model to sustain their impact.



7. The Experience Architect:

The Experience Architect focuses on developing impactful, engaging experiences within our community. At Innov8 Hub, we train academics and innovators to think beyond functionality and consider the emotional journey of the end-user. Whether it's an app interface or an in-person service, we encourage designs that create meaningful, memorable interactions. This customer-centric approach helps turn ordinary solutions into extraordinary experiences.

CONNECTING THE FACES TO INNOV8 HUB'S MISSION

The Ten Faces of Innovation aren't just abstract concepts—they are practical tools that help Innov8 Hub achieve its mission. At our core, we aim to cultivate an environment where innovation can flourish. By encouraging individuals and organizations to embody these personas, we are building a community that is not only creative but also resilient, collaborative, and empathetic.

Innov8 Hub's overarching goal is to empower academics, innovators and venture creators to shape the future. Whether you are a budding entrepreneur with a groundbreaking idea, or an established business seeking to stay ahead of the curve in an ever-changing market, the lessons from Tom Kelley's book are invaluable. By adopting the "faces" of innovation, we can all contribute to a world where creativity is nurtured, collaboration is celebrated, and impactful solutions are realized.

As we look to the future, Innov8 Hub remains committed to fostering the next generation of change-makers, ensuring that innovation is not just a goal, but a way of life.



8. The Set Designer:

The Set Designer understands that physical environments can inspire and influence creative thinking. At Innov8 Hub, we have applied this philosophy by creating dynamic workspaces that stimulate innovation. From open collaboration zones to private meeting rooms, our facilities are designed to foster productivity and creativity, offering innovators the right environment to develop their ideas.

9. The Caregiver:

The Caregiver anticipates the needs of others and works to meet them with empathy. This persona is central to Innov8 Hub's community-driven initiatives. We believe that true innovation comes from solving real-world problems. By nurturing ideas that address social and environmental challenges, we enable innovators to become caregivers, driving solutions that improve lives and uplift communities.

10. The Storyteller:

Stories are the lifeblood of innovation. The Storyteller builds narratives that capture imagination, persuade stakeholders, and inspire action. Innov8 Hub places a strong emphasis on storytelling, through our Creative Media department producing content, facilitating training and platforms for innovators to share their journeys. We understand that a well-told story can be the catalyst that turns a great idea into a movement.



FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY: TETFUND, SGCI AND INNOV8 HUB PROPEL NIGERIAN ACADEMICS

In June 2024, a group of Nigerian academics took a leap into uncharted territories. This was not just another milestone in their academic careers, but the beginning of a transformative journey. These trailblazers, participants from the 6th and 19th batches of TETFund's Research for Impact Initiative (R4i), in collaboration with Innov8 Hub, were absorbed into the prestigious Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), with access to a collective grant of \$250,000. This grant, managed by TETFund and Innov8 Hub, is much more than a financial boost—it is a propeller for innovative breakthroughs that could reshape Nigeria's future.

The SGCI grant isn't just about the money; it is about fostering a culture of market-driven innovation. For the duration, participants will engage in a programme that includes market validation, high-level design, and prototype development. By focusing on real-world problems, the initiative pushes participants to align their solutions with market needs, ensuring that their products not only work but have a sustainable impact.

In the first phase, the four selected teams embarked on market validation missions, gathering valuable insights from potential users and refining their ideas. The feedback they received provided a critical foundation for their product development journey. On October 7th-9th, 2024, they returned to Innov8 Hub for an intensive High-Level Design bootcamp, where they worked closely with technical and venture experts to further develop their solutions.

One of the most profound lessons the participants learned was the importance of market validation—getting real-world feedback to ensure their ideas are viable and aligned with user needs. Dr. Ramatu Idris Sha'aba, from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, had a personal revelation: "Coming here, I realized that you have to fall in love with the problem, not the solution. It's not about what I think will work, but about keeping the customer's satisfaction at the forefront."

This shift in perspective is critical. Innovators often get attached to their ideas, but market validation reminds them that the ultimate goal is solving a problem that resonates with end-users.

Dr. Mansok Bitrus from Plateau State University, Boko, echoed this sentiment:

"From the venture creation bootcamp, we were able to formulate the right questions to truly understand our target market's perspective on our technology."

It's this kind of real-time, on-the-ground feedback that sharpens an idea into something practical, marketable, and, most importantly, impactful.

After market validation, the teams moved into the high-level design phase, where they began iterating on their prototypes. The bootcamp at Innov8 Hub gave them the space and resources to refine their designs, incorporating the lessons learned from the field.

Prof. Nwaugo Victor from Abia State University, Uturu, reflected on the importance of this phase: "During this training, I realized I cannot just produce anything I want. It must be based on people's needs. The end-users are the key to defining what your product should look like."

This understanding is crucial in today's innovation landscape. No longer can researchers operate in isolation; they must engage directly with the people who will ultimately use their products.

Dr. Oluwamodupe Cecilia from Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa, shared how the bootcamp empowered her team: "At the High-Level Design bootcamp, we improved on our prototype design based on the knowledge we gained in the field. I want to thank SGCI, TETFund, and Innov8 Hub for the privilege to access this grant."

This iterative process of refinement, combined with expert mentorship, is what sets this programme apart. SGCI, TETFund AND Innov8 HuBare not just funding ideas—they are cultivating solutions that have the potential to create real change.

This iterative process of refinement, combined with expert mentorship, is what sets this programme apart. SGCI, TETFund AND Innov8 HuBare not just funding ideas—they are cultivating solutions that have the potential to create real change.

The overarching goal of the SGCI programme is not just to bring products to market but to address pressing societal issues. For participants like Prof. Osita Chiaghanam from Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra, the impact is already tangible: "My participation in TETFund's Research for Impact Initiative has translated into SGCI coming in to fund our research. This will go a long way in reducing the impact of waterborne diseases in Nigeria."

The solutions these innovators are developing aren't just theoretical—they are designed to address real challenges, from public health to environmental sustainability. By focusing on end-user needs and market viability, the programme ensures that these solutions can have a lasting, positive impact.

Dr. Leonard Agim from the Federal University of Technology Owerri underscored the far-reaching effects of his involvement: "Participating in this programme has boosted my morale as a person and an academic. It transcends into impacting knowledge on our students and contributes significantly to scientific research in universities, which in turn supports national development."

The journey for these teams is far from over. With SGCI, they will continue to refine their products, develop prototypes, and prepare for market entry. The lessons learned so far—about falling in love with the problem, engaging with end-users, and

For TETFund, Innov8 Hub, and the participants, the partnership with the Science Granting Councils Initiative represents a significant step toward positioning Nigerian innovation on the global stage. The grant may be \$250,000, but the potential impact of these innovators is priceless. Together, they are building solutions that could redefine industries, improve lives, and contribute to national development. As the programme continues to unfold, one thing is clear: the future of the Nigerian Academia is bright.

Maiden Edition of

tetfund

NATIONAL RESEARCH FAIR/EXHIBITION

THEME

Technologies for Massive Generation of Jobs and Wealth Creation Among Nigerians

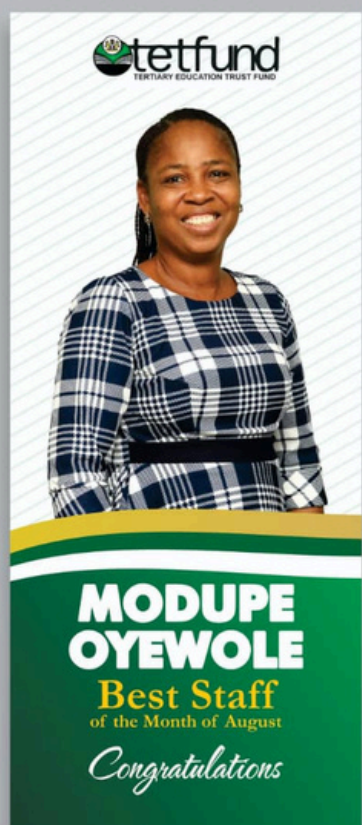


 17th - 22nd November, 2024.

 Eagle Square Abuja

 9:00am Daily

STAFF OF THE MONTH



Read the clues at the side to figure out the answers

C	O	M	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	T	E	T	F	U	N	D	E
R	I	P	D	O	L	L	M	E	N	N	T	M	D	N	Y	I	X
O	N	F	D	I	C	O	M	M	I	T	M	E	N	T	G	N	P
C	O	M	M	E	N	D	S	I	R	E	T	O	C	E	O	I	A
E	I	S	T	A	M	A	S	A	R	I	A	A	T	O	L	G	N
C	T	U	I	M	O	I	G	L	S	M	Y	E	T	M	O	E	S
T	A	F	N	I	V	T	T	U	L	E	G	Y	I	F	N	R	I
S	C	L	A	N	D	B	O	A	R	D	L	A	O	F	H	I	O
O	U	V	W	U	I	R	R	T	S	A	T	K	N	N	T	A	N
U	D	I	T	Z	G	E	K	B	F	H	T	T	A	A	E	T	H
Y	E	S	S	O	B	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	T	T	E
R	G	I	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	T	R	U	S	T	E	E	S
A	I	O	L	A	N	S	Y	H	H	N	I	D	R	W	A	N	E
R	E	N	X	A	E	E	O	H	A	B	D	C	E	N	R	L	R

TETFUND
INAUGURATES
BOARD
OF
TRUSTEES
AMINU
MASARI
COMMENDS
PRESIDENT
VISION
AND
COMMITMENT
TO
EDUCATION

TEASER

1. THERE ARE TWO DUCKS IN FRONT OF A DUCK, TWO DUCKS BEHIND A DUCK IN THE MIDDLE, HOW MANY DUCKS ARE THERE?

2. THE DAY BEFORE TWO DAYS AFTER THE DAY BEFORE TOMMORROW IS SATURDAY, WHAT IS TODAY?

GET YOUR NEWS UPDATE ON TETFund's ACTIVITIES ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



TETFUND



TETFUND



TETFundNg



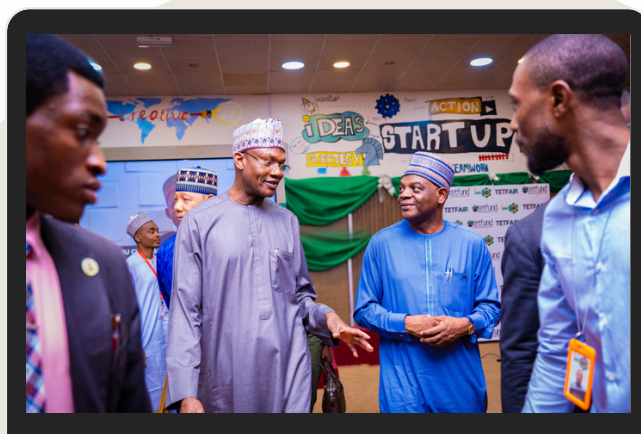
TETFundTV



Info@tETFund.gov.ng



www.tETFund.gov.ng





J U L Y - S E P T 2 0 2 4



tetfund.gov.ng