



## SPECIAL EDITION

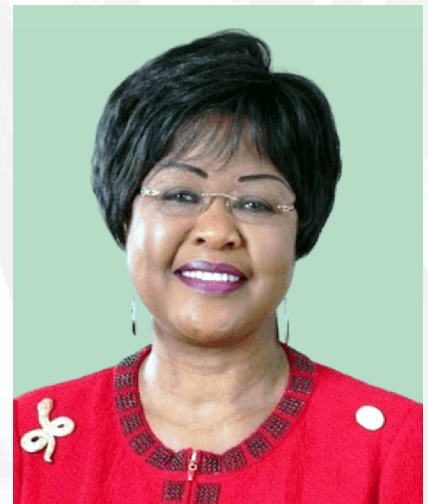
# Justice Uwais, late Adamu Fika, Ambassador Arikana Conferred with Honorary Degrees ... at ABU's 43rd Convocation Ceremony



Hon. Justice Lawal Uwais, GCON



Late Adamu Fika, GCON



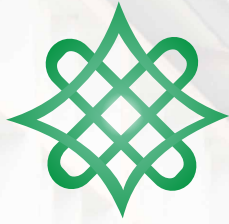
Amb. Arikana Chihombori-Quao

## ALSO INSIDE

# VICE-CHANCELLOR INDUCTS 25,432 GRADUANDS INTO ABU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



# AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA



## *Vision*

Ahmadu Bello University shall be a world-class university comparable to any other, engaged in imparting contemporary knowledge, using high quality facilities and multi-disciplinary approaches, to men and women of all races, as well as generating new ideas and intellectual practices relevant to the needs of its immediate community, Nigeria and the world at large

## *Mission*

To advance the frontiers of learning and break new grounds, through teaching, research and the dissemination of knowledge of the highest quality; to establish and foster national and international integration, development and the promotion of African traditions and cultures; to produce high-level human power and enhance capacity-building through retraining, in order to meet the needs and challenges of the catchment area, Nigeria and the rest of the world

This is a special edition for the 43rd convocation ceremony of Ahmadu Bello University at which a total of 25,432 graduands were conferred with Bachelor and Higher Degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas. The graduands earned their respective degrees and diplomas in various fields of knowledge from the 18 Faculties and 109 academic Departments. A series of activities were carried out to mark the all important event. Part of the activities included the recognition of 117 staff for their outstanding contributions to the objectives of the University as well as to national and international developments. A number of projects were commissioned during the week. The commissioned projects were Kongo CBT Centre, ABUTH Urology and Sequencing Unit, and 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre. They also included new building for the Faculty of Arts, Danfodio New Postgraduate blocks, and new building for the Department of Industrial Design. His Excellency, Donald Duke, CON, former Governor of Cross River State, delivered the 43rd Convocation Lecture. The lecture, “This is

Your Time: Set Forth in Confidence and with Haste”, took place at the newly commissioned 1000-Seater Conference Centre on Friday 26th January, 2024 with the former Chairman/Director-General, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa, OON, as Chairman of the Occasion. The convocation ceremony took place at Mamman Kontagora Square on Saturday, 27th January, 2024. High point of the event was the award of the Honorary Degrees to three deserving personalities namely: former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Muhammadu Uwais, GCON; the late Wazirin Fika, Malam Adamu Mu'azzam Fika, GCON; and former African Union Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao. While Justice Uwais was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) Honoris Causa, the late Adamu Fika (post-humous) and Ambassador Chihombori-Quao were awarded Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) and Doctor of Science (D.Sc) respectively. In this edition, we bring to you stories on all these events and many others for your reading.

ABU News Production Team		PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY
<p><b>Editorial</b> Auwalu Umar</p> <p><b>Reportorial</b> Ingino Voh Nafisa Ahmad Muhammad Ahmadu A. Is'haq Ahmad Haruna Waziri Surayya Gidado Bello</p> <p><b>Photography</b> Tajudeen Kamal Usman Dawud Hussaini</p> <p><b>Graphic Design/Typesetting</b> Mohammed Faisal Aliyu</p>	<p><i>ABU News</i> is published by the Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Ground Floor, Senate Building, Ahmadu Bello University, Main Campus, Samaru, Zaria</p> <p><b>Email:</b> publicaffairs@abu.edu.ng auwalidbt@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Prof. Kabiru Bala, FNIQB, FSAN</b> Vice-Chancellor</p> <p><b>Prof. Ahmed Doko Ibrahim</b> Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration</p> <p><b>Prof. Raymond B. Bako</b> Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics</p> <p><b>Mal. Rabi Samaila</b> Registrar</p> <p><b>Mal. Mohammed Bello A. Gurin</b> Bursar</p> <p><b>Dr. Abdulhamid Liman Gambo</b> Ag. University Librarian</p>

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# Justice Uwais, Late Adamu Fika, Ambassador Arikana Conferred with Honorary Degrees



Hon. Justice Lawal Uwais, GCON



Late Adamu Fika, GCON



Amb. Arikana Chihombori-Quao

Ahmadu Bello University has conferred honorary degrees to three deserving personalities at its 43rd convocation ceremony, which took place on Saturday 27th January 2024, as approved by His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and visitor to the university.

The Honorees were former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Honourable Justice Muhammadu Uwais, GCON; the late Wazirin fika, Malam Adamu Mu'azzam Fika, GCON; and the former African Union representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao.

Justice Uwais was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) Honoris Causa, late Adamu Fika was conferred with post humous degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) Honoris Causa, and Ambassador Chihombori-Quao received the Degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc) Honoris Causa.

Justice Lawal Uwais had an excellent career in the Nigerian Judiciary and International

Judicial Organizations from 1964 to 2006, rose through the ranks through hard work and dedication to duty to become the Chief Justice of Nigeria in 1995. Uwais career is replete with record-breaking attainments that impacted positively on the Nigerian and International judiciary. During the course of his career, Justice Uwais had delivered more judgments than most of his colleagues who passed through the Supreme Court.

Malam Adamu Mu'azzam Fika, who was Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Ahmadu Bello University Governing Council, served as commissioner of Finance in the defunct North Eastern state in 1972; permanent Secretary in various Federal Ministries and establishments; Secretary to the Government and Civil service of the Federation; and chairman of several government and private agencies and organizations. The services he rendered in these capacities went a long way in enhancing efficiency,

effectiveness, and integrity of the public service and educational development.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, former African Union Representative to the United Nations, is an exemplary leader and advocate for African Unity, social justice, and economic empowerment, and global issues. Born and grew up in a village of Chivhu in Zimbabwe, and later emigrated to the United States in 1977. Chihombori-Quao tirelessly works towards strengthening the relationship between Africa and the United States. Her dedication to fostering partnerships, promoting investment, and advocating for the interest of the African Continent has been exceptional. She has consistently advocated for African unity and the empowerment of African Nations on the global stage.

The honorees expressed their profound appreciation to Ahmadu Bello University for finding them worthy and recognizing their contributions to humanity.

# Vice-Chancellor inducts 25,432 graduands into ABU Alumni Association

The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Kabiru Bala, has inducted all the 25,432 graduands of the University for 2021/2022 into the ABU Alumni Association during the institution's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

“We have today conferred on you the degree of this great institution. I want to also remind you that the conferment is for both good character and academic performance. The demonstration of the good character and qualification is how you represent your Alma Mater hereafter.

“Go out today and succeed; go and take charge and apply what you have learned here. We also urge you to succeed and to look back with pride where you are coming from; with the great zeal to give back and to develop Ahmadu Bello University”, he admonished.

The Vice-Chancellor, who handed over the graduands to the National President of Ahmadu Bello University, Malam Adamu Mamman Kontagora, after the induction, prayed to God to bless all the graduands.

Receiving the graduands, the National President of the Alumni Association, Malam Adamu Mamman Kontagora, wished them success in their life journeys.

“I welcome you into the fold today with excitement and warmth! That you have graduated today is a milestone; but the other milestone is that you go out as a legacy of the great Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as part of the thousand of alumni spread all over the world”, he said.

The Alumni President urged the graduands to seek out other ABU alumni and consort with them wherever they are, during their NYSC or in their work places.

Kontagora also enjoined them



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, giving his speech at the 43rd Convocation

**I welcome you into the fold today with excitement and warmth! That you have graduated today is a milestone; but the other milestone is that you go out as a legacy of the great Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria as part of the thousand of alumni spread all over the world**

to dialogue and brainstorm on how they would keep the vision of the institution's founding fathers alive.

“Seek what you can do for ABU after this so that the Ahmadu Bello University you are leaving behind grows and not shrinks!

“I wish you success in your life journeys. In your youth, conquer the world! In maturity, humble the universe! And, in old age, be strong and unyielding mentor to others! Be strong and be blessed!”, he concluded.



A cross section of graduands during the convocation ceremony

# 22 best graduating students receive prizes, certificates at ABU's 43rd Convocation

... With Hajara Muhammad Hassan Tom collecting the highest number of prizes



A female best graduating student receives a prize certificate from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala

**T**wenty two best graduating students have received various prizes and certificates at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of Ahmadu Bello University held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

A total of 10 different prizes were given to eight best graduating students at the occasion. Of the number, three prizes were given to the best graduating MBBS student, Muhammad Hajara Tom.

Hajara Tom won the following prizes: Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Kaduna State Prize for Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student, Vice-Chancellor's

Prize for Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student, and Nigeria Health Insurance Agency (NHIA) Prize for Overall Best Graduating MBBS Student.

She also received the Dean's Annual Prize Certificate from the University as the Best Graduating Student from the College of Medical Sciences.

Faculty of Agriculture's Ahmed Sekinat Oziohu received Abbas Umar Masanawa Prize as the Best Graduating Student from the Department of Agricultural Economics.

Equally, Five Best Graduating

students from the Faculty of Engineering clinched various prizes. For example, Nuhu Surajo Umar received "Mai Martaba, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, Sarkin Kano Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Computer Engineering".

"Engr. Khalil Inuwa Prize for the Best Female Graduate in Mechanical Engineering" went to Sule Sarah Yetu, while "Paul Sunday Achimugu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Polymer and Textile Engineering" was given to Muhammad Khadijah Gogodai.

Muhammad Khadijah Gogodai also won "Rita Okpuwhara Prize for the

Continued on page 7

## 22 best graduating students receive prizes, certificates at ABU's 43rd Convocation

Continued from page 6

Best Graduating Female Student in Polymer and Textile Engineering. Idris Abdulbasit received “Professor Iyam Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Weaving Mechanism”.

Faculty of Environmental Design's “Professor W.B. Qurix Prize for the Best All Round Graduating Student in M.Sc. Architecture went to Pwanedo Alson.

Also, a total of 17 Faculties' Best Graduating Students, including the University's overall best graduating student, Abuhuraira Mahdi from the Department of Computer Science, received the Dean's Annual Prize Certificates from the University.

Below is the list of Faculties' Best Graduating Students:

1. Ali Agnes, U17PA1055, Faculty of Administration, Public Administration, CGPA 4.46
2. Atuen Dorcas Edet, U17FR1006, Faculty of Arts, French, CGPA 4.61
3. Joseph Lamusi, U17AG2002, Faculty of Agriculture, Agriculture, CGPA 4.88
4. Sule Iye-oko Joy, U16NS1156, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Nursing Sciences, CGPA 4.68
5. Akinola Abubakar Olayinka, U17IN1002, Business School, Insurance & Actuarial Science, CGPA 4.83
6. Muhammad Hajara Tom, U14MD1040, Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences, MBBS
7. Adebola Adesinmi Precious, U17HP1113, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Human Physiology, CGPA 4.67
8. Muhammad Hajara Tom, U14MD1040, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, MBBS
9. Idris Usman Aliyu, U17BD2012, Faculty of Environmental Design, Building, CGPA 4.94



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, presents a prize certificate to one of the best graduating students

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Khabue Endurance, U18VB2016, Faculty of Education, Business Education, CGPA 4.59</li> <li>11. Nuhu Surajo Umar, U17CO2016, Faculty of Engineering, Computer Engineering, CGPA 4.88</li> <li>12. Afolabi Hafeezah Olamide, U17CL2033, Faculty of Law, Civil Law, CGPA 4.56</li> <li>13. Bashir Ismail, U17BT1160, Faculty of Life Sciences, Botany, CGPA 4.86</li> <li>14. Yusuf Sekinat Unekwu-Ojo,</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U16PH1062, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmacy, CGPA 4.83</li> <li>15. Abuhuraira Mahdi, U17CS1070, Faculty of Physical Sciences, Computer Science, CGPA 4.95</li> <li>16. Ramon Abbas Adewale, U17PS1057, Faculty of Social Sciences, Political Science, CGPA 4.70</li> <li>17. Suleiman Abdullahi Mahmud, U15VM1080, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, CGPA 4.81.</li> </ol> |
|---|---|



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, presents a prize certificate to a best graduating student

# Chancellor admonishes graduands

The Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, His Majesty Nnaemeka Alfred Ugochukwu Achebe, Obi of Onitsha (Agbogidi), CFR, has urged graduands at the institution's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony, to remain steadfast, focused and utilize the numerous opportunities available to conquer the world and make a better place with innovative ideas.

The institution's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The Chancellor reminded the graduands of the knowledge acquired in the University that would provide them with the pedestal for self-fulfillment.

His Majesty told them that the education provided at ABU must not be taken for granted, as it is a singular privilege, considering the large number of applicants that could not secure admission due to the limited space.

He also reminded the graduands of the highest standard of the University that is well known for.

The Chancellor applauded the Federal Government for taking the bold step of exempting federal universities from the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) which has been a bone of contention in the university system.

He specifically thanked the guest lecturer, former Governor of Cross River State and a distinguished alumnus of the University, His Excellency Donald Duke, CON, for delivering the Pre-Convocation Lecture as well as Dr. Sulaiman Ndanusa, OON, another illustrious alumnus and former Chairman/Director-General, Securities and Exchange Commission, for serving as Chairman of the Occasion.



The Chancellor, His Majesty Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, Obi of Onitsha, CFR, speaking at the Convocation

The Chancellor congratulated the honorary doctorate degree awardees for being found worthy of the awards, saying that their support for education and humanity is exemplary and commendable.

He particularly commended the two female awardees, one of whom was brought forward from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Convocation awards.

His Majesty was pleased with the University's effort towards overcoming the barriers of physical presence by adopting virtual

participation through the medium of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The Chancellor also appreciated the effort of the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala and his leadership team for ensuring that the students get the best. He equally commended the dedication of the University staff, teaching and non-teaching, for their zeal and courage in bringing up these emerging leaders.



A cross section of graduands



# President says varsities remain citadels of research, innovation

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has described universities as citadels of research and innovations which provide the necessary avenue for development of societies.

The President stated this at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, held at Mamman Kontagora Square, Main Campus.

President Tinubu, who is also the Visitor to the University, commended Ahmadu Bello University for holding an enviable status in its contribution to research and innovation, especially in the area of agriculture, medicine and engineering among others.

Represented by the Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Mamman, the President urged the university academics to publicize their research findings and collaborate with industries and entrepreneurs in commercializing ideas.

He said the higher education sector was witnessing tremendous growth internationally and impact from globalization, stressing that this was facilitated in part by partnerships, collaborations and use of information and communication technology.

The President emphasized that the initiative of the university in developing a regional and internationalization policy aimed at attracting international staff and students was the right step in the right direction.

He reiterated the Federal Government's commitment towards complimenting the progressive efforts in researches through its recent approval of transnational education in Nigeria.



Prof. Tahir Mamman while delivering the Visitor's speech

**The initiative of the university in developing a regional and internationalization policy aimed at attracting international staff and students was the right step in the right direction**

President Tinubu noted that this policy allows universities and inventors abroad to set up institutions within Nigeria owned by them or collaborate and partner with existing Nigerian institutions.

He congratulated graduands on the occasion of their graduation and encourage them to use the knowledge they have acquired to be employers of labour.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Ahmed Doko Ibrahim (left) in a chat with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala (right)

# ABU runs 551 academic programmes



A procession during the Convocation

**A**hmadu Bello University has a total of 551 academic programmes being run in the institution. The number is made up of 453 postgraduate and 98 undergraduate programmes.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, who disclosed this at the institution's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, stressed that the development was part of the significant progress recorded in different segments of the University.

Bala further explained that the eight additional postgraduate programmes approved by the University Senate at its 525<sup>th</sup> (Regular) meeting last year were part of the 551 academic programmes.

He listed the new postgraduate programmes as follows: M.Sc. Actuarial Science, M.Sc. Risk

Management and Insurance, Ph.D Finance, Ph.D Finance (Islamic Finance), and Master of Finance and Treasury Management.

They also included Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Marketing, Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) in Physics, and Ph.D in Agricultural Education.

Other academic progress recorded last year by the University, according to the Vice-Chancellor, was the upgrade of the IJMB Unit to a Directorate in order to efficiently cope with the increasing volume and complexity of its activities.

He also disclosed that the Research and Innovation Unit had also been upgraded to a Directorate given the critical role that research plays in the development of any society.

The Vice-Chancellor also said

that the establishment of the International Institute of Online Education Nigeria National Centre as well as the establishment of Urology and Kidney Transplant Facility and the establishment of Next Generation Sequencing for Infectious Diseases were part of the academic development so far recorded.

Prof. Bala further said that the University was making concerted efforts to regularize the erstwhile critical academic discourse and debates that ABU was well-known for in the past that proffered solutions and shaped national, regional, and international policy directions.

He explained that in the last one year a total of 22 international conferences, as well as inaugural, valedictory, and public lectures were organised during the period.

# 'Why ABU introduced special resit programme'

The special resit examination for graduating classes was introduced by Ahmadu Bello University to address the age-long menace of students' inability to graduate on time, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, has said.

This, Prof. Bala explained, resulted in remarkable and unprecedented proportion of final year students that graduated in the immediate past academic session, thereby saving time and resources to the students, parents, and the nation.

The Vice-Chancellor, who spoke at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of the University held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, stressed that the gesture was part of the welfare package for students of the institution.

Bala further stated that the University had continued to provide new hostel accommodation whilst renovating and modernizing existing ones to ensure its students enjoy secured and memorable experience in the University.

He disclosed that two new blocks of hostels in Danfodio Hall, assisted by the TETFUND, were commissioned in November last year and that two additional hostel blocks are under construction at ABUTH, Shika.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala

**We are also well poised to key into the emerging opportunities using the Public Private Partnership model to further increase our on-campus accommodation**

Prof. Bala further explained that ICOSA/Ramat, Akenzua, and Danfodio hostels recently witnessed facelifts through capital appropriations, saying that renovation of hostels would continue this year and would extend to ABUTH, Shika and Kongo Campus.

"We are also well poised to key into the emerging opportunities using the Public Private Partnership model to further increase our on-campus accommodation stock", he said.

The Vice-Chancellor equally spoke on the new policy documents for the University, disclosing that the institution's Senate had at its 518<sup>th</sup> (Regular) Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, approved the implementation plan for the teaching and learning policy (TLP).

He said that the policy aimed at guiding the individual units of the University towards the delivery of high quality teaching and learning and that it promotes use of latest modern information and communication technologies and is based on Online and Blended Teaching and Learning (OBTL) approach.

The Vice-Chancellor further disclosed that the University Senate approved the Special Admission and Credit Units Transfer Policy, which provides a framework to admit students through routes other than the traditional Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and Direct Entry (DE) modes of entry into the University.

He said that the Revised Examinations Management/Regulations Policy is another document approved by the Senate of the University given the significance of examination as an important activity in the University that requires well-coordinated and dynamic management protocols and effective regulations in tune with current realities.



A cross section of University Senate members at the Convocation

# 14 ABU staff attract over N300 million research grants



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, speaking at the Convocation

**F**ourteen academic staff of Ahmadu Bello University attracted over N300 million from national and international sources in grants for various research activities in 2023, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, has disclosed.

The grants attraction, according to him, was in addition to over 60 Institutions-Based Research (IBR) grants offered to staff with competing proposals.

Delivering a speech at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of the University held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, the Vice-Chancellor explained that of the 14 academic staff, nine won successful awards under the 2023 cycle of TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) grants totaling N255,030,677.91.

The Vice-Chancellor, who expressed delight over the “waves” staff of the University have continued to make in terms of grants attraction from national and international sources in order to augment public

sources, said that five others won other research grants worth over N50 million during the period.

Winners of the 2023 cycles of TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) grants are as follows:

- Yusuf Shehu Mohammed, Research Title: 'Development of Artificial Intelligence-Based Security System to Mitigate Incidence of Kidnapping and Car Theft in Ahmadu Bello University Campus'.
- Jaliya Muhammad Musa, Research Title: 'SWAT Modelling Development and Deployment for Management of Irrigation Schemes to Improve Small Scale Farmers' Livelihood in Nigeria'.
- Olanrewaju Taofiq Olayinka, Research Title: 'Development of an Artificial (AI) Based Multi-Crop Planter'.
- Patch Umar Usmanu, Research Title: 'Isolation of Antimalarial Compounds from the Leaves and

**The grants attraction was in addition to over 60 Institutions-Based Research (IBR) grants offered to staff with competing proposals**

Roots of *Globimetula Braunii* (Engler) Van Tiegh Growing on *Taminalia Catapa*'.

- Kado Dikko, Research Title: 'Conversion of Food and Farm Wastes to Renewable Energy'.
- Okubanjo Oluyinka Oluseyi, Research Title: 'Establishment of a Biobank of One Health Pathogens in Nigeria'.
- Yusufu Lazarus Mungu Dambowoth, Research Title: 'Development of a Clinical Pathway to Reduce Access Disparities in Early-Stage Breast Cancer in Northern Nigeria: A Transitional Science Approach'.
- Muhammad Hafsat Abdullahi, Research Title: 'Application of Microsporidia MB for Transmission Blocking of Disease Agents in *Anopheles Gambiae*'.
- Garba Nuraddeen Nasiru, Research Title: 'Fabrication of Radiation Shielding Barriers Using Local Building Materials for Protection Against Radiation Exposure in Radiological and Nuclear Centre'.

Some of the other research grants won by staff of the University include Meade Collaboration Travel Grant in Epidemiology Award, Carnegie Diaspora Fellowship Program Grant, Universal Basic Education Commission Grant, and Raw Materials Research Development Council Grants.

# ABU honours 117 for outstanding performance

A total of 117 staff and units of the University have received various categories of awards for their outstanding contributions to the objectives of the University and to national and international developments. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, presented the awards to the deserving staff on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

Their nominations were contained in a report of the University Reward and Recognition System Committee submitted to the University Management.

It would be recalled that the Vice-Chancellor approved the setting up of the Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 to institute a reward and special

recognition system for staff members in general, and those who occupy positions of authority in the management of the University.

The seven-member Committee chaired by Prof. Sani A. Abdullahi of the Department of Finance recommended 34 different categories of reward and recognition for staff and service units of the University. The Vice-Chancellor, who received the report alongside Management staff of the University, thanked members of the Committee for the thorough job and assured that they would look into the Committee's recommendations with a view to implementing them.



Those nominated for the awards are as follows:

## **Overall Outstanding Performance Achiever Award (Teaching Staff)**

Prof. Muhammed Bashir Mu'azu

Dr. Abubakar Ishaq

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Law

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## ABU honours 117 for outstanding performance

Continued from page 13

### Outstanding Performance Award

Dr Adamu Sanusi Gambo	Faculty of Administration
Prof P.A. Onimisi	Faculty of Agriculture
Dr Yunusa Ahmad	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Mr Steve Daniel	Faculty of Arts
Prof Abdulmumini H. Rafindadi	Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences
Prof Uduak Emmanuel Umana	Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
Prof Umar Abdulaziz	Faculty of Clinical Sciences
Prof Benjamin Fomote	Faculty of Dentistry
Dr Emmanuel Gana	Faculty of Education
Prof Kabiru Ahmad Abubilal	Faculty of Engineering
Prof Eric Venon Okpoku	Faculty of Environmental Design
Dr Salim B. Magashi	Faculty of Law
Prof Danladi Amodu Ameh	Faculty of Life Sciences
Prof Mohammed Iliyas	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Dr Abubakar Usman	Faculty of Physical Sciences
Dr Aminu Yunusa	Faculty of Social Sciences
Prof A.K.B. Sackey	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

### Outstanding Performance Award (Non-Teaching Staff – Senior Category)

Suleiman Muhammad	Registry
Ekundayo Ibrahim	Bursary
Saidu O. Alfa	University Security Service (USS)

### Outstanding Performance Award (Non-Teaching Staff – Junior Category)

Sani Yahaya	Registry
Aliyu Garba	Bursary
Jaafaru Haruna	University Security Service (USS)

### Researcher of the Year – Faculty

Prof Kabir Jinjiri Ringim	ABU Business School
Dr Madu Abdulrazaq Yuguda	Faculty of Administration
Dr Y.U. Oladimeji	Faculty of Agriculture
Dr Idris Nasir Abdullahi	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Dr Nadir Abdulhadi Nasidi	Faculty of Arts
Prof Modupeola O.A. Samaila	Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences
Prof Yusuf Tanko	Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
Prof Adebisi G. Adesiyu	Faculty of Clinical Sciences
Prof Sunday Olusegun Ajike	Faculty of Dental Surgery
Prof Yusuf Hanna Onyi	Faculty of Education
Dr A.M.S. Tekanyi	Faculty of Engineering
Prof Kabir Bala	Faculty of Environmental Design
Prof K.M. Danladi	Faculty of Law
Dr Auwal Mohammed Ibrahim	Faculty of Life Sciences
Prof Mohammed Garba Magaji	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Prof Adamu Uzairu	Faculty of Physical Sciences
Dr Abubakar Shehu	Faculty of Social Sciences
Dr Dahiru Sani	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

### Overall Outstanding Researcher of the Year (Individual)

Prof Mohammed G. Magaji	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
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Continued on page 15

## ABU honours 117 for outstanding performance

Continued from page 14

### Most Outstanding Research Group of the Year

G.F.S Harrison Quantum Chemistry Lab Group

### The Most Cited Staff of the Year – Faculty & Centres

#### Prof Kabir Jinjiri Ringim

Prof Nafiu Abdu  
 Dr Idris Nasiru Abdullahi  
 Dr Abubakar Zaria Ibrahim  
 Prof Saad A. Ahmed  
 Prof Yusuf Tanko  
 Prof Muawiya Babale Sufyan  
 Prof Sunday Olusegun Ajike  
 Prof Ayuba Guga  
 Prof Kolawole Juwolu Osinubi  
 Prof Yahaya Makarfi Ibrahim  
 Dr Mohammed Awwal Ibrahim  
 Dr Shafiu Mohammed  
 Dr Musbahu Sule Dutse  
 Dr Hamisu Sadi Ali  
 Prof Joseph Olusegun Ayo  
 Prof Sunday A. Jonah  
 Prof Christogonus K. Daudu  
 Prof Chieze N.P.  
 Prof Muhyideen Oyekunle

#### ABU Business School

Faculty of Agriculture  
 Faculty of Allied Sciences  
 Faculty of Arts  
 Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences  
 Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences  
 Faculty of Clinical Sciences  
 Faculty of Dental Surgery  
 Faculty of Education  
 Faculty of Engineering  
 Faculty of Environmental Design  
 Faculty of Life Sciences  
 Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
 Faculty of Physical Sciences  
 Faculty of Social Sciences  
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
 CERT  
 NAERLS  
 NAPRI  
 IAR

### Overall Most Cited Staff of the Year

Dr Shafiu Mohammed

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

### Best Performing Service Delivery Unit Award

Bulk Metering Unit

### Long Service Award

Dahiru Abbas Hunkuyi

Bursary

### Leadership Excellence Award

#### (A) Best Performing Head of Department

Dr Dalhat M. Jumare  
 Prof Aminu. I. Sharifai  
 Dr Dalhat Khalid Sani  
 Dr Emmanuel Tsadu Gana  
 Dr Shamsudin Aliyu  
 Prof Sunday Abraham Musa  
 Prof Ibrahim Abdulrasheed  
 Prof Sunday Olusegun Ajike  
 Prof Umar Musa  
 Prof Muhammad M. Bukhari  
 Prof Abdullahi Abubakar  
 Dr Dalhat A. Idris  
 Prof Maryam Aminu  
 Prof Halimatu Sadiya Hassan  
 Dr Abdulkarim Muhammad  
 Dr Rahnatu Lawal  
 Prof Tagang Aluwong

Faculty of Administration  
 Faculty of Agriculture  
 Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
 Faculty of Arts  
 Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences  
 Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences  
 Faculty of Clinical Sciences  
 Faculty of Dental Surgery  
 Faculty of Education  
 Faculty of Engineering  
 Faculty of Environmental Design  
 Faculty of Law  
 Faculty of Life Sciences  
 Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
 Faculty of Physical Sciences  
 Faculty of Social Sciences  
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Continued on page 16

## ABU honours 117 for outstanding performance

Continued from page 15

**(B) Best Performing Dean of Faculty**

Prof Abdullahi Abubakar

Dean, Faculty of Environmental Design

**Grant Fellow of the Year**

Dr Aliyu Abdullahi Ahmed  
 Prof Ado A. Yusuf  
 Dr Dalhat Khalid Sani  
 Dr Terry Little  
 Prof Rabiul Abdulsalam Magaji  
 Prof Taiwo Lateef Sheikh  
 Prof Raymond B. Bako  
 Prof I.A. Mohammed Dabo  
 Prof Muhammad Bello Yunusa  
 Prof Emmanuel Balogun  
 Prof Y.K.E. Ibrahim  
 Prof Moses Mamman  
 Prof Peter T. Njiforti  
 Prof Hussaina Makun  
 Prof Idris Isa Funtua  
 Dr Fatima Dembo Bello  
 Prof Adunni Shukurat Sanni  
 Dr Fadlullah Olayiwola Issa

ABU Business School  
 Faculty of Agriculture  
 Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
 Faculty of Arts  
 Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences  
 Faculty of Clinical Sciences  
 Faculty of Education  
 Faculty of Engineering  
 Faculty of Environmental Design  
 Faculty of Life Sciences  
 Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
 Faculty of Physical Sciences  
 Faculty of Social Sciences  
 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
 CERT  
 Arewa House  
 IAR  
 NAERLS

**Overall Grant Fellow of the Year**

Prof Y.K.E. Ibrahim

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Casual Staff Service Award**

Mal. Nasiru Lawal

**Pro-bono Service Excellence Award**

Prof Buba G. Bajoga  
 Mal. Yahaya Abubakar  
 Mal. Abba Bello Ingawa  
 Dr Shehu Lawal Giwa (Posthumus)

**Best Performing Sport Team**

Judo Team

**Sport Coach of the Year**

Abdullahi Baba Ndana

**Most Valuable Sport Man of the Year**

Mustapha Mohammed

**Most Valuable Sport Woman of the Year**

Hilda Agbo

**Sport Legend of the Year**

Oliver Berdeen Johnson

**Sport Philanthropist of the Year (Individual)**

Dr Muhammad Sunusi

**Sport Philanthropist of the Year (Corporate)**

ABU Microfinance Bank

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**It would be recalled that the Vice-Chancellor approved the setting up of the Committee on 14th December, 2023 to institute a reward and special recognition system for staff members in general, and those who occupy positions of authority in the management of the University. The seven-member Committee chaired by Prof. Sani A. Abdullahi of the Department of Finance recommended 34 different categories of reward and recognition for staff and service units of the University**

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, speaking at the occasion

## ABU's IAR releases improved crop cultivars for Nigerian farmers

Scientists at the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University, in collaboration with national and international partners, have successfully registered and released improved cultivars of maize, sorghum, oat, and castor for utilization by farmers in Nigeria.

This, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, underscored the Institute's unwavering commitment to national development, particularly in addressing challenges related to food and nutritional security.

Prof. Bala spoke at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of Ahmadu Bello University held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

He explained that the feat was made known during the just-concluded 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Committee on Naming, Registration, and Release of Crop Varieties, Livestock Breeds/Fisheries held at the National

Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB) in Ibadan on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the maize hybrids registered and released for commercial production are high-yielding, with an average above 8 tonnes per hectre.

“Notably, SAMMAZ 70 is an extra-early maturing hybrid (80 – 85 days) with high Pro-Vitamin A content (17.2 ug/g DW), tolerant to striga pests, and potential yield of 7.6 tons/ha.

“SAMMAZ 71 is a medium-height maize hybrid that matures in 110 – 120 days. Its outstanding features include a high grain yield of about 10 tons/ha, resistance to aflatoxin B, and suitability for production in Northern and Southern Guinea Savannah.

“Other cultivars released by the Institute include the castor variety SAMCAS I, with a potential yield of 3.2 tons/ha and oil yield of 47 percent. Two extra-early (SAMOAT

3 and SAMOAT 4) and one early (SAMOAT 5) improved oat cultivars were also registered and released”, he said.

Similarly, he said, the Institute achieved a significant milestone as it equally registered and released four transgenic maize hybrids known as TELA Maize.

This milestone, according to him, signified a strategic move towards enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability across the region.

He explained that the TELA Maize project, a collaborative effort involving public and private stakeholders, is spearheaded by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF).

The Vice-Chancellor also stressed that the release of these transgenic maize varieties marked a transformative leap in agricultural technology, promising a more resilient and sustainable future for farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

# ABUTH offers invitro fertilization services, says Vice-Chancellor

Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) in collaboration with Nisa Reproductive Health Centre Kaduna started offering Invitro Fertilisation (IVF) services, according to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala.

The Vice-Chancellor was speaking at Ahmadu Bello University's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 during which he disclosed some of the major developments recorded by the University since the last event held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

Prof. Bala disclosed with the delight that the first IVF-conceived baby was delivered on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, with a weight of 3kg, making it the first in any public hospital in Northwest Nigeria.

Other subsequent deliveries via this technology, according to the Vice-Chancellor, had been successfully undertaken.

“While the embryology laboratory of the private facility was used for the collection of female eggs and male sperm for fertilization, the other aspects of treatment and patient management were undertaken at ABUTH”, he explained.

The Vice-Chancellor, therefore, called on government and other private financiers to assist the University with funding for a complete Centre for Reproductive Medicine which would run both clinical and academic activities.

Prof. Bala also spoke on research activities at the institution's Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE), which according to him, had continued to focus on five main areas.

These areas include engineering content knowledge application and skills, effectiveness of different engineering education pedagogies in



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala

enhancing teaching and learning, as well as development and production of prototype engineering pedagogy tools for classroom application.

They also included implementation and evaluation of E-LEDs and development of new multimedia (pictures, diagrams, animations, videos, etc) to mediate E-LEDs.

“Box-Behnken Experimental Design for the Process Optimisation of Catfish Bones Derived

Hydroxyapatite: A Pedagogical Approach” was another research output from ACENPEE, he further said.

He explained that the synthesis, optimization, and evaluation of synthesized hydroxyapatite (HAP) from catfish bones (CB) was carried out to achieve optimum processing conditions and sustainable pedagogical approaches for the preparation of hydroxyapatite scaffolds for tissue engineering.



ABU Teaching Hospital Main Entrance, Shika

# Vice-Chancellor says ABU committed to ICT infrastructure development

Ahmadu Bello University is committed to the provision of ICT infrastructure and Advanced Technology Systems for improved ICT-based knowledge to the University community for teaching, research and administrative activities.

This was disclosed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, during the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of the University held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

He said that with the support of the Africa Centres of Excellence the institution acquired anti-plagiarism software and subscribed to several high-quality online journals to support research and postgraduate activities.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the additional ICT infrastructure procured by the University in 2023 included the provision of 10km of

optic fibre, 310 internet bandwidth, 20 solar infrastructure, 20 access switches, and 80 access points obtained under the NCC broadband project.

He also said that the entire phase II of the University has now been covered with optic fibre and broadband has been fully deployed.

The Vice-Chancellor further disclosed that the University was offered Microsoft 365 AI for Education License by Microsoft, saying that this has extended the capacity of the University to deploy online courses and conduct of virtual viva voce.

Prof. Bala, who expressed satisfaction with the University's ICT development, said that other ICT facilities provided during the period included 2 Gbps watt, 30 access points, and 18 interactive boards.

Commenting on sports and recreation, the Vice-Chancellor explained that the University continued to advance in sporting programmes under the technical supervision of its professional coaches.

Bala, who stressed that the institution has been exceptional in quite a number of games and other sporting activities in recent times, also disclosed that the University hosted a total of five sporting events in 2023.

These sporting events, according to him, included Nationwide National Football League, Savannah Conference Basketball League for Females, Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, and Annual Vice-Chancellor's Cup, which was tagged ABU Diamond Jubilee Football in commemoration of ABU @ 60.



An aerial view of Ahmadu Bello University, Main Campus, Samaru, Zaria

# Vice Chancellor commissions 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre

The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof. Kabiru Bala, on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 commissioned the 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre, a TETFund intervention project completed and furnished after 11 years of the project allocation by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Speaking at the brief but colourful ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor commended the efforts of the federal government through TETFund and the former Executive Secretary TETFund, Prof. Suleiman E. Bogoro, for his support in providing the funds to enable such important project to continue in ABU.

This project is first of its kind among all tertiary institutions, said Vice-Chancellor.

He then thanked the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Doko, Management, Deans and Directors for their support toward achieving such great development to the University.

The Director, Physical Planning and Municipal Services, Ahmadu Bello University applauded the remarkable achievements of the Vice-Chancellor and the positive relationship between TETFund and the institution for providing a mutual agreement for the completion of the project.

In his goodwill message, the contractor Alh. Yakubu Adoki, owner of Baumasters Project Limited and an alumnus of the University, said he was highly delighted to be part of this historic project at the same time promised to do more if possible in future.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, commissioning the 1000-Seater Capacity International Conference Centre

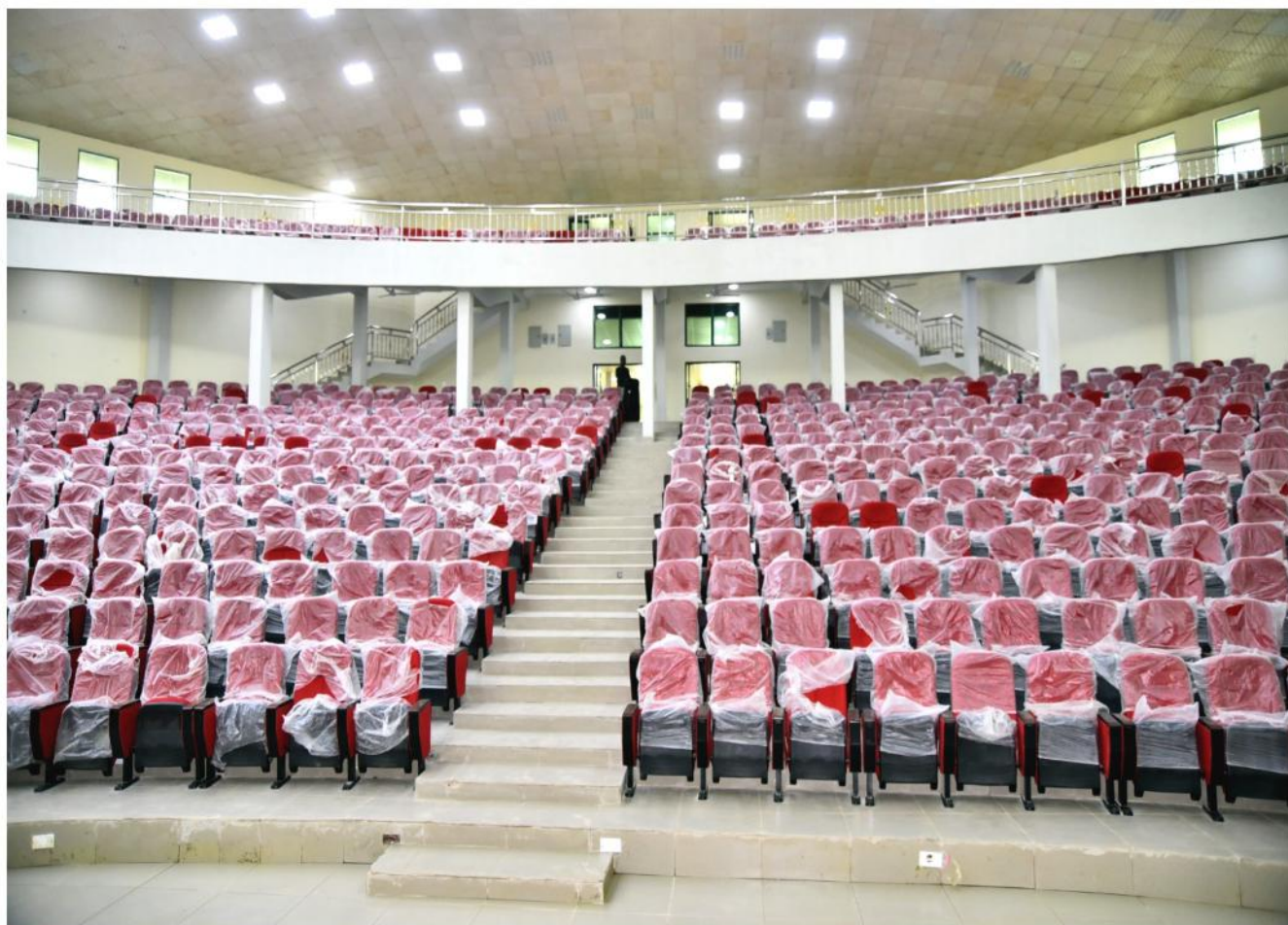


The front view of the Conference Centre



The Vice-Chancellor unveiling the Centre

# Inside ABU's newly commissioned 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre



Inside the newly commissioned 1000-Seater Capacity International Conference Centre

Ahmadu Bello University's 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre, which was commissioned by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, is a three-floor building complex with several spaces for different purposes.

The construction of the massive structure, sited at the Main Campus of the University, commenced in 2012 under the TETFund 2009 Special Intervention, and it is now completed with TETFund 2021 Special Intervention.

Variiously viewed as a "world class" conference centre, the Vice-Chancellor described the project during its commissioning on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 as

the "first of its kind" in Nigeria's tertiary institutions.

Speaking at a brief but colourful ceremony to commission the structure, Prof. Bala stressed that the University would remain grateful to the Federal Government and TETFund for funding the project.

Similarly, the Vice-Chancellor was also full of praises for former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman E. Bogoro, and Chairman of Board of Trustees for TETFund, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam, for their immense support towards the provision of enough funds to complete the project.

Prof. Bala, who expressed satisfaction with the quality of the

work, disclosed that the University would appoint facility managers for effective management of the massive structure.

The Vice-Chancellor also commended the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Prof. Ahmed Doko Ibrahim, Management, Deans, and Directors for their unwavering efforts towards the realisation of this great project.

Also speaking, Alhaji Yakubu Ibrahim Adoke, the Chairman of Baumasters Project Limited and a distinguished alumnus of the University, stressed that he was highly delighted to be part of the project, and congratulated the University on having such a massive project.

Continued on page 23

## Inside ABU's newly commissioned 1000-Seater Capacity Conference Centre

Continued from page 22

Giving an insight into the scope of the project, earlier, the Director, Physical Planning and Municipal Services (PPMS), Arc. Suleiman Mohammed, stressed that the Vice-Chancellor and his management team should be applauded for their untiring efforts towards the completion of the project 11 years after its commencement.

Arc. Mohammed, who also commended all other personalities that contributed in one way or another towards the completion of the project, attributed this landmark achievement to the sustained positive relationship between TETFund and the institution.

The Director, Physical Planning and Municipal Services (PPMS), Arc. Suleiman Muhammad, explained that the scope of the project consists of construction and furnishing of the Centre, saying that the three-floor structure has the following functional spaces:

### Ground Floor

- Entrance foyer
- 10 No. cubicles ticketing counter

- 1 Number Theatre hall, 900 Capacity
- Exhibition area A, 500 Capacity
- Exhibition area B, 200 Capacity
- 1 Number Restaurant, 120 Capacity
- Large Kitchen
- Servery area
- Kitchen store
- Coffee bay, 25 person at a time
- Coffee bay Store
- 5 Number Shops
- 5 Number Shops Stores
- Large 3 number Equipment stores
- Smaller Conference halls, 4 Numbers (2 No. =30 capacity, 2No.= 40 capacity)
- Back stage
- 2 Numbers First aid rooms
- 2 Numbers Make-up rooms (Male & Female)
- 2 Numbers changing room (Male & Female)

- 12 Number Male toilets
- 10 Number Female toilets

### First Floor

- Exhibition area C, 200 Capacity
- Exhibition area D, 200 Capacity
- Coffee / Snack bar
- Banquet Hall 1, 200 Capacity
- Banquet Hall 2, 100 Capacity
- Banquet Hall 3, 50 Capacity
- Banquet Hall 4, 50 Capacity
- 2 number Workshops
- 2 number Equipment rooms
- Offices, 8 number offices
- Lettable room 1
- Lettable room 2

### Second Floor

- Upper gallery theatre hall, 200 capacity
- Projector room



Inside the Centre

# Department of Building inducts graduating class of 2021/2022 Session



Ahmadu Bello University's Department of Building echoed with the sounds of excitement and pride as the institution prepared for the grand induction ceremony of the 2021/2022 graduating class. The prestigious event, hosted at the Assembly Hall of ABU on January 25, 2024, marked a significant milestone for 74 graduates who were about to step into the professional world as registered members of the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB).

The atmosphere was charged with a mix of anticipation and nervous energy as the graduates, donned in their graduation gowns, prepared to take the next step in their journey towards becoming professional builders. The NIOB, the authoritative body responsible for registering builders, played a pivotal role in guiding these graduates through the transition from academia to the professional realm.

The ceremony began promptly at 10 am, with the dignitaries taking

their seats amidst the applause of the gathered audience. The Vice-Chancellor of ABU, along with the Deputy Vice-Chancellors for Administration and Academics, added an air of academic distinction to the event. Prof. A. Abubakar, the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Design, and Prof. A.M. Stanley, the Assistant Dean, brought their expertise to the forefront.

Bldr. Dr. M. Dodo, the Head of the Department of Building at ABU, stood proudly at the helm, ensuring the smooth execution of the proceedings. The 2nd VP of NIOB, Bldr Idris Abubakar Saddi, representing President Bldr (Sir) Alderton Ewa, took center stage to preside over the oath-taking ceremony, symbolizing the graduates' commitment to uphold the highest professional standards.

The list of distinguished guests continued with the Chairman of NIOB Kaduna State Chapter, Bldr. Dr. M. Abubakar, and the immediate past Chairman, Bldr. Mahmoud Salihu, offering words of wisdom to

the budding professionals. The Department of Building staff, parents of the inductees, and other students added to the collective energy of the occasion.

The momentous oath-taking ceremony marked the official induction of the 74 graduates as NIOB Graduate Members. With this accomplishment, they embarked on a journey of tutelage and standard assessments, paving the way for their eventual registration as Corporate Members — a testament to their fully recognized professional status.

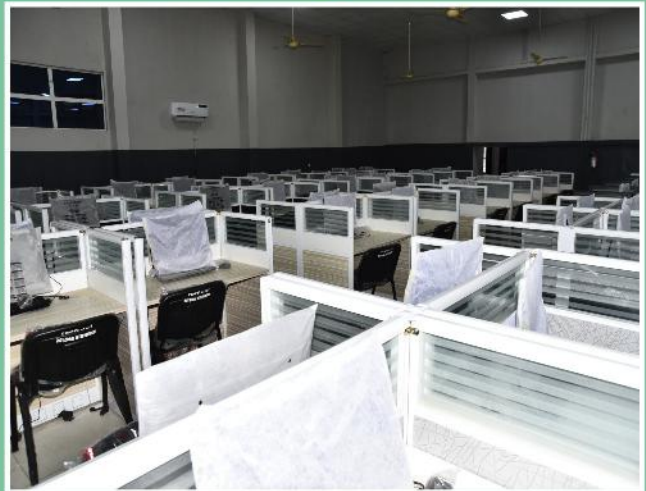
As the ceremony concluded, cheers and applause filled the Assembly Hall, celebrating not only the achievements of the Class of 2021/2022 but also the strong foundation laid for future builders. The bond forged during this induction would carry these professionals forward, as they ventured into the world, armed with knowledge, dedication, and the shared commitment to shape the built environment for a better tomorrow.



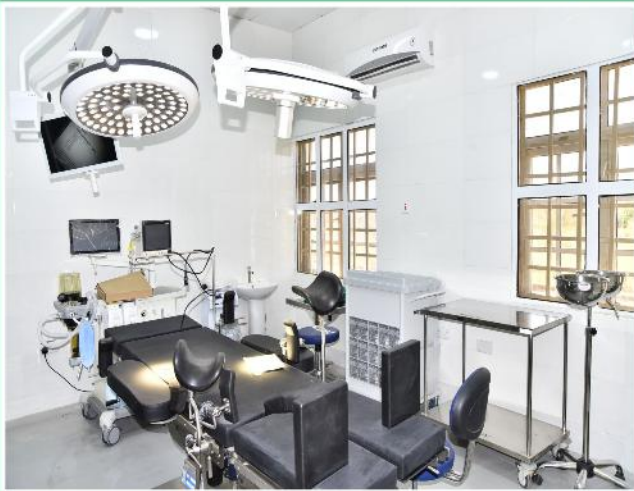
## Commissioning of Danfodio New Postgraduate Blocks by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, *FNIOB, FSAN*



## Commissioning of CBT Centre, Kongo Campus by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, *FNIQB, FSAN*



## Commissioning of Urology/Kidney Transplanting Centre by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, *FNIOB, FSAN*



## Commissioning of Department of Industrial Design by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, *FNIOB, FSAN*



## Commissioning of Extension of Faculty of Arts, ABU Zaria by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kabiru Bala, *FNIOB, FSAN*

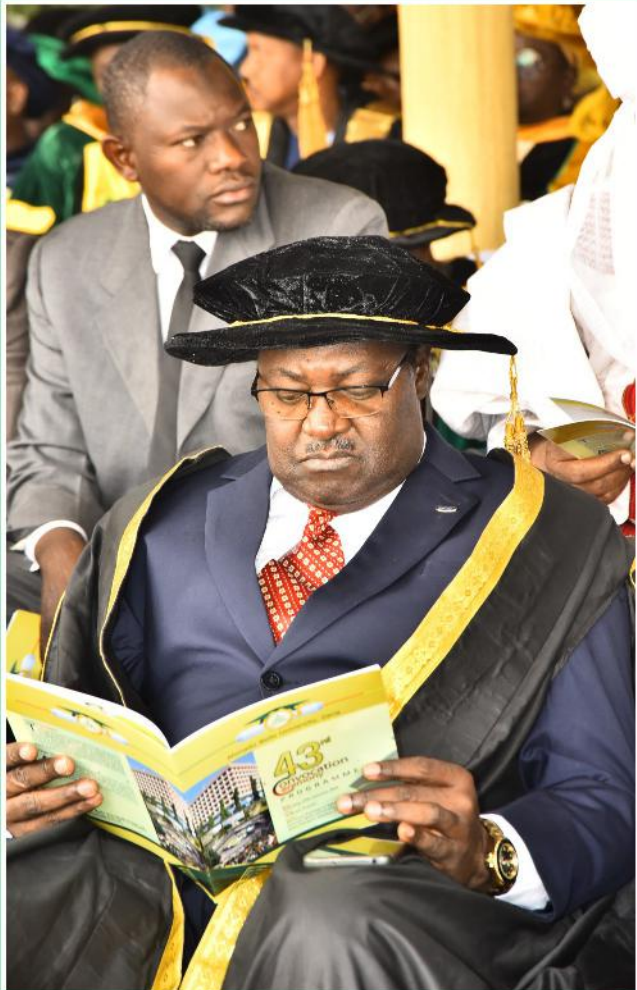
















**ADDRESS BY THE VISITOR TO AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR, AT THE 43RD CONVOCATION CEREMONY, ON SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2024. HE WAS REPRESENTED BY THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROF. TAHIR MAMMAN**



The Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman delivering the Visitor's speech

**I**t is my honor and pleasure to read through the message he required me to deliver at this very important event I now read

It is with utmost pleasure that I address the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony of Ahmadu Bello University. Convocation is an important and memorable academic tradition officially marking the end of painstaking efforts made by the university authorities, staff, students as well as parents or guardians. I heartily join you all in celebrating this important milestone.

I am delighted to note that the convocation was preceded by a

series of academic and non academic activities for celebration of the University's Diamond Jubilee which just occurred in previous years. These are activities that reflect traditions of the university that is focused in the pursuit of its vision and mission.

Universities are known as citadels of research and innovations which provide the necessary patronage for development of societies.

Ahmadu Bello University enjoys an enviable status in its contribution to research and innovation, especially in the area

of agriculture, medicine, engineering to mention just a few. I, therefore, urge the University to publicize the researches and collaborate with industries and entrepreneurs in commercializing such ideas.

Today, the higher education sector is witnessing tremendous growth, internationalization, and impact from globalization. This is facilitated in part by partnerships collaborations and use of information and communication technology.

The initiative of the University in developing a regional and internationalization

Continued on page 37

**Address by the Visitor, ABU Zaria, at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony**

Continued from page 36

policy aimed at attracting international staff and students is the right step in the right direction.

Federal Government is complementing these progressive efforts through its recent approval of transnational education in Nigeria. This policy allows universities and inventors abroad to set up institutions within Nigeria owned by them or collaborate and partner with existing Nigerian institutions.

Gone are the days when Nigeria is bottled up in the areas of knowledge and cooperation and for that, therefore, this gives Nigerians access to quality education based on global standards and also serves foreign exchange well.

On our own part, this government has done a critical role of national institutions to achieving the aims of this government to place the nation on the map of development. We will continue to support institutions with appropriate policies and resources that will facilitate this law. Our students will similarly enjoy such support such as the students loan which we have now expanded to cater for those pursuing skills based courses in addition to those in the universities.

As our universities continue to make efforts towards diversifying their sources of funding, it is important to point out that they should take into cognizance the veritable role of the alumni. I urge our university, therefore, to explore these opportunities to the fullest. I equally urge the alumni to endeavor to give back to their institution. In this regard, I commend the effort of the authorities of Ahmadu Bello University for engaging with its strong alumni under the University Endowment Foundation program of giving back by the alumni.

It is gratifying to note that the alumni have been responding positively to the commitment of the University authorities in pursuing the source of funding which is commendable.

I would like to draw the attention of this august gathering to the fact that we are living at a time where security consciousness of all citizens is becoming more and more important by the day. It is imperative to state that a peaceful atmosphere is key to the attainment of objectives of teaching, research and community service in our universities.

In this regard, the universities should see themselves as enclaves isolated from the rest of the society especially their immediate society.

Our universities should therefore endeavour to ensure they develop cordial relationship with their immediate communities and make plausible contributions for their development. I am pleased to know that Ahmadu Bello University has in place mechanisms that ensure collaboration and maintenance of cordial relationship with neighbouring communities, other institutions and security agencies over the years. This has gone a long way in providing a conducive and peaceful atmosphere for learning and academic activities.

My dear graduands, I warmly congratulate you on the occasion of your graduation. Your stay in the University led to the successful completion of your studies.

It's a thing of joy to yourselves, your parents, your guardians and us in leadership positions. I encourage you to use the knowledge you have acquired. You are therefore advised to be job creators rather than job seekers. The opportunities available are limitless and open to you.

As the staff and students of the University continue to excel in national and international competitions, I would like to congratulate you and urge you not to relent on your course. The university and the nation are proud of your achievements.

In conclusion I would like to solicit for the understanding and support of Nigerians to hold economic and commerce programmes as part of economic development. We are very hopeful that these policies will help our economy in no distant future.

The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and members of the University community, I want to assure you that the University Governing Councils will soon be in place. Indeed, it is imminent

I thank you for your attention

Long live Ahmadu Bello University

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

God bless you.

**ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY,  
HIS MAJESTY, NNAEMEKA ALFRED UGOCHUKWU ACHEBE,  
CFR, MNI, LLD, OBI OF ONITSHA (AGBOGIDI) AT THE  
43RD CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY  
ON SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2024**



The Chancellor, His Majesty, Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, delivering his speech

I am elated to extend a very wholehearted welcome to the Visitor, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu *GCFR*; the Chief Host, His Excellency, Governor Uba Sani *OFR*; our gracious royal landlord, His Highness Amb. Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli *CFR, LLD*, the Emir of Zazzau; other distinguished guests, the graduands, and their parents and guardians to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation ceremony of the Ahmadu Bello University.

I wish to particularly congratulate the graduands and their parents on this auspicious occasion of their convocation as it official marks the completion of their academic sojourn in the University and the commencement of a new life

with its various challenges.

I wish to advise the graduands to think creatively on how they can become self-employed rather than waiting for white collar jobs which are very limited. The current age of digital/social revolution and technology has become the main access to literally all occupations, professions and vocations, which has exposed the limitless opportunities that now exist for brilliant men and women like you. Therefore, I urge you to endeavour to utilize to the full the numerous opportunities available, conquer the world and make it a better place with innovative ideas. Always bear in mind that the knowledge you have acquired in the University has provided you with the pedestal for

self-fulfillment.

Your high-quality education at ABU must not be taken for granted; indeed it is a singular privilege, considering the large number of applicants that could not gain admission every year due to limited carrying capacity. You are a product of the highest standard for which your University is well known for. For that reason, I sincerely commend and salute the Vice Chancellor and his leadership team, Faculty and Staff, who have nurtured you.

I would like to congratulate the honorary graduands being honoured today for being found worthy of the award of Honorary Degrees of our great University. Your support for education and humanity is

Continued on page 39

## Address by the Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

Continued from page 38

exemplary and commendable. By your acceptance, you bring honour to the University. We trust that you will always wear our banner with pride as well as advance the cause of the University when there is opportunity to do so. I particularly commend the two female awardees, one of whom was brought forward from the 42nd Convocation awards. I am pleased that our University is able to overcome the barriers of physical presence by adopting virtual participation through the medium of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

I sincerely thank the Guest Lecturer, His Excellency Donald Duke, CON, former Governor of Cross River State and an illustrious Alumnus of our University for the very inspiring pre-Convocation lecture he delivered yesterday. The advices to the graduands and the nation on the way forward would go a long way in the realisation of the full potentials of our graduates and our nation. I also thank the Chairman of the pre-Convocation Lecture, Dr. Sulayman Ndanusa, CON, another illustrious Alumnus, former Chairman/Director-General, Securities and Exchange

Commission for the effective role of serving as Chairman of the occasion.

At this juncture, I wish to congratulate the immediate past Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students on the occasion of the University's 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony. I wish to commend the Federal Government as well as its regulatory agencies over their unwavering support for the development of tertiary education in spite of dwindling resources. I must also sincerely salute the members of the Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff for your zeal, courage and dedication in bringing up these emerging leaders. You have every reason to be proud of your endeavours, particularly in the difficult environment that Nigerian academic institutions exist.

In that regard, I would want to commend the Federal Government for taking the bold step of exempting Federal universities from the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) which has being a bone of contention in the University system. It is hoped that this decision will go

a long way in further guaranteeing the much needed autonomy in our Universities.

I would want to offer my sincere condolences to the Visitor, the Senate, Management and the entire members of the University community over the demise of the immediate past Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of the University, Mal. Adamu Fika, *Wazirin* Fika. May his gentle soul rest in peace. May the Almighty God reward him in many folds for his diligent and selfless services and sacrifice to Ahmadu Bello University, the nation and humanity at large. His inclusion among those being honoured today posthumously with Honorary Degrees is indeed very apt.

I also wish to condole with you for all staff members and students of the University we recently lost to the cold hands of death. May their souls rest in peace.

Thank you very much for listening.

In accordance with the provisions of the Laws and Statutes of the University, I hereby declare the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation open.



Cross section of academicians listening to the Chancellor's address

**SPEECH OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROF. KABIRU BALA, FNIQB, FSAN, AT THE 43RD CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA HELD ON SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2024 AT THE MAMMAN KONTAGORA SQUARE**



The mace bearer leading the convocation procession

**PROTOCOLS**

**1.0 PREAMBLE**

In the name of Allah, the most beneficent and most merciful. It is my singular honour and privilege to welcome you all, particularly the Visitor, Your Excellency President Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu *GCFR*, to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation Ceremony of Ahmadu Bello University, holding today, Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Your Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, our distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, this convocation ceremony celebrates 25,432 graduands of this great University for 2021/2022 academic session as follows: -

- (a) 6,809 Higher Degrees with:
  - 647 PhDs
  - 5,167 Masters
  - 40 MPhil;
  - 955 Postgraduate Diplomas.
- (b) 18,623 Bachelors Degrees with
  - 182 have earned First Class degrees,
  - 3,902 Second Class (Upper Division),

- 11,552 Second Class (Lower Division),
- 2,692 Third Class Honours,
- 20 Pass degrees and
- 275 Unclassified degrees (from College of Medical Sciences, Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine).

These distinguished graduands have earned their respective Degrees and Diplomas in various fields of knowledge from the 18 Faculties and 109 academic departments of this University.

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, and the entire University community, I congratulate you all, and wish you greater achievements in your future endeavours.

**2.0 AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES**

Your Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, Ahmadu Bello University honorary degrees as it is always the case, are only awarded to highly distinguished personalities who have made significant contributions to the advancement of humanity. In accordance

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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Higher Education Conference (WHEC'22), the UNESCO International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (UNESCO-ICHEI) initiated a global project on the “**Digital Transformation of Teaching and Learning**”. UNESCO-ICHEI and the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) Nigeria National Centre subsequently launched the project on “**Empowering Institutional Policy Implementation for Digital Teaching and Learning in Nigeria**”. The focus of the project is on the design, development and production of online courses and contents, including capacity building on digital literacy. This is in recognition of the importance of digital teaching and learning towards the realization of quality, equitable and inclusive higher education to the evolving needs of the labour market driven by the widespread use of digital technologies.

I am deeply honoured to mention that Ahmadu Bello University has assumed the Rotating Presidency Unit of the IIOE for 2024. This was announced during the IIOE Global Partners Summit held at Shenzhen, China between 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. With this development, ABU is expected to closely collaborate with the UNESCO-ICHEI and IIOE secretariat to provide strategic guidance and support for the development of the IIOE and digital transformation of higher education in various regions of the world. During the summit, ABU was also selected as the winner of the UNESCO-ICHEI Higher Education Pioneer Case Award. The winning submission was made by our team lead by Prof Muhammad Bashir Mu'azu of the Department of Computer Engineering.

#### IV. Establishment of Urology and Kidney Transplant Facility, and Establishment of Next Generation Sequencing for Infectious Diseases

Through the support of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) Special Intervention, a Urology and Kidney Transplant Facility has been established at the ABUTH. High-tech medical equipment have been supplied, installed and commissioned, and ready for use for the purposes of addressing the multitude of Nigerians that have kidney health challenges. Modern next-generation sequencing equipment for molecular level investigation of infectious diseases have also been supplied and installed. These developments have undoubtedly improved our diagnostic and research capacities to deal with complex medical situations and reduce medical tourism as well as associated capital flight.

#### C. NEW POLICY DOCUMENTS

The following policies have been recently formulated and approved:

##### I. Implementation Plan for the Teaching and Learning Policy

The University Senate, at its 518<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 approved the Implementation Plan for the Teaching and Learning Policy (TLP). The policy is aimed at guiding the individual units of the University towards the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning. The policy promotes use of latest modern information & communication technologies and is based on Online and Blended Teaching and Learning (OBTL) approach. The financial and technical support granted by UNESCO-ICHEI is greatly appreciated.

##### II. Special Admission and Credit Units Transfer Policy

The Senate at its 520<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023 approved the Special Admission and Credit Units Transfer Policy. The Policy provides a framework to admit students through routes other than the traditional the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and Direct Entry (DE) modes of entry and for ensuring successful transfer of earned credit units by students, to/or from ABU in line with our Internationalisation strategy.

##### III. Revised Examination Management/Regulations

Examination is an important activity in the University that requires well-coordinated and dynamic management protocols and effective regulations in tune with current realities. The Senate at its 525<sup>th</sup> (Regular) meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 approved the revised Examination Management/Regulations policy document. The document covers key aspects such as appointment of internal & external examiners, preparation of examination papers, faculty and departmental examination officers, registration of students for examination, discipline during examination, functions of Boards of Examiners, Faculty Boards and Senate in determining results of examination, notification of examination result and provisions on sub-degree (diploma and certificate courses) in line with global best practices.

#### 4.0 STUDENTS WELFARE

##### A. Resit Examination

In order to address the age-long menace of students' inability to graduate on time, the Senate of ABU graciously introduced the special resit programme for graduating classes. This resulted in remarkable and unprecedented proportion of final year students that graduated in the immediate past academic session, thereby saving time and resources to the students, parents and the nation.

##### B. Students' Hostel

In our continued bid to ensure our students enjoy secured and memorable experiences in ABU, we have continued to provide new hostel accommodation whilst renovating and modernising existing ones. Two new blocks of hostels in Danfodio hall, assisted by the TETFUND, were commissioned last November and two additional hostel blocks are under construction at the Teaching Hospital, Shika. ICSA/Ramat, Akenzua and Danfodio hostels recently witnessed facelifts through capital appropriation. Renovation of hostels will continue this year and will extend to the ABUTH Shika and Kongo campuses. We are also well poised to key into the emerging opportunities using the Public Private Partnership model to further increase our on-campus accommodation stock.

#### 5.0 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The University continues to support all categories of staff to attend local and international conferences and further training within the limits of available resources. However, examples of internal training and workshops organized to enhance staff capacity include the following:

- i. Step-down Train-the Trainer Workshops on Digital

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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Skills for Teaching and Learning for Staff of Academic Departments and Registry in Collaboration with the IIOE-Nigeria National Centre. Over 1000 staff of ABU and from other partner Higher Education Institutions in Nigeria attended various capacity building trainings during in the last one year.

ii. Workshop on Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting for PG Coordinators, Examination and Assistant Examinations Officers, Registration Officers, Assistant Faculty Examination Officers, Faculty ICT Officers, MIS, Bursary and Registry held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 in Collaboration with the Africa Centre of Excellence on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB) and the Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE).

iii. Workshop on Administrative Procedure and Use of Data for Decision Making for Management Staff, Deans, Directors and Heads of Department held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2023 in Collaboration with the Africa Centre of Excellence on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB) and the Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE).

iv. Capacity Building Workshop for mid-career academic staff (Lecturer I and below) was organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023 to equip young academics with the requisite skills and knowledge base to effectively deliver on their core responsibilities in respect of teaching, research and community service.

v. Workshop on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer (IPTT). The aim of the workshop was to sensitise staff members on the need to conduct solution-oriented research that will lead to innovations that can be commercialised. The workshop held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023 in Collaboration with the Africa Centre of Excellence on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB) and the Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE).

### 6.0 GRANTS WON BY STAFF

Staff of the University have continued to make waves in terms of grants attraction from national and international sources in order to augment public sources. In addition to over 60 Institutions-Based Research (IBR) grants offered to staff with competing proposals, the following nine (9) academic staff of ABU won successful awards under the 2023 cycle of TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) grants in the total sum of N255,030,677.91:

1. Yusuf Shehu Mohammed with Research Project Titled “Development of Artificial Intelligence Based Security System to Mitigate Incidence of Kidnapping and Car Theft in Ahmadu Bello University Campus” in the sum of N26,367,370.44.

2. Jaliya Muhammad Musa with Research Project Titled “SWAT Modeling Development and Deployment for Management of Irrigation Schemes to Improve Small Scale Farmers' Livelihood in Nigeria” in the sum of N26,433,512.32.

3. Olanrewaju Taofiq Olayinka with Research Project Titled “Development of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Based

Multi-Crop Planter” in the sum of N35,752,366.70.

4. Pateh Umar Usman with Research Project Titled: “Isolation of Antimalarial Compounds From the Leaves and Roots of *Globimetula Braunii* (Engler) Van Tlegh Growing on *Taminalia Catapa*” in the sum of N25,474,296.88.

5. Kado Dikko with Research Project Titled: “Conversion of Food and Farm Wastes to Renewable Energy” in the sum of N18,859,686.27.

6. Okubanjo Oluyinka Oluseyi with Research Project Titled: “Establishment of a Biobank of One Health Pathogens in Nigeria” in the sum of N34,245,404.44.

7. Yusufu Lazarus Mungu Dambowoth Research Project Title: “Development of a Clinical Pathway to Reduce Access Disparities in Early-Stage Breast Cancer in Northern Nigeria: A Transitional Science Approach” in the sum of N25,599,541.89.

8. Muhammad Hafsat Abdullahi with Research Project Titled: “Application of Microsporidia MB for Transmission Blocking of Disease Agents in *Anopheles Gambiae*” in the sum of N35,752,366.70.

9. Garba Nuraddeen Nasiru with Research Project Titled: “Fabrication of Radiation Shielding Barriers Using Local Building Materials for Protection Against Radiation Exposure in Radiological and Nuclear Centre” in the sum of N26,546,132.27.

Some of the other research grants won by staff of the University include:

10. Meade Collaboration Travel Grant in Epidemiology Award in the sum of GBP 11,739.63 entitled “A One-Health partnership to enhance integrated surveillance towards Rabies control and elimination in Nigeria” by Grace Sabo Nok KIA, Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

11. Carnegie Diaspora Fellowship Program entitled “Research collaboration and curriculum co-development in Food Engineering with the infusion of Student-centered Active-based learning” by Charles Nwaizu (Nebraska) and Dr. Taofiq O. Olanrewaju (Nigeria) of the National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS).

12. Universal Basic Education Commission Grant of N18,771,000 entitled “Early learning innovations in Nigeria: Fostering Foundational skills and boosting ability of Next Generation to learn” by Prof. Binta Abdulkarim of the Department of Science Education.

13. Raw Materials Research Development Council Grant of N10,000,000 entitled “Research Development of Polyester Fibres/Yarns for the Nigerian Textile Industry” by Abu S. Lawal Department of Polymer and Textile Engineering.

14. Raw Materials Research Development Council Grant of N7,740,000 entitled “Production of Prototype Nano Foot Wears from Waste Plastics and Waste Automobile Tyres” by Suleiman Mukhari Department of Polymer and Textile Engineering.

### 7.0 STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Your excellencies, royal highnesses, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that staff of Ahmadu Bello University have recorded outstanding research

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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breakthroughs in their various areas of endeavours. Our Agricultural Complex, which include IAR, NAPRI, NAERLS, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has remained relevant in terms of Agricultural research and training over the years, and will continue to do so for the benefit of our dear nation. I am glad to announce some major recent research breakthroughs recorded by staff of the University as follows:

i. Scientists from the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, in collaboration with national and international partners, have recently successfully registered and released improved cultivars of maize, sorghum, oat, and castor for utilization by farmers in Nigeria. This was disclosed during the just concluded 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Committee on Naming, Registration, and Release of Crop Varieties, Livestock Breeds/Fisheries held at the National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB) in Ibadan, Nigeria, on Thursday, January 11, 2024. These maize hybrids registered and released for commercial production are high-yielding, with an average above 8 tonnes per hectare for farmers. Notably, SAMMAZ 70 is an extra-early maturing hybrid (80 – 85 days) with high pro-vitamin A content (17.2 ug/g DW), tolerant to Striga pests, and a potential yield of 7.6 tons/ha. SAMMAZ 71 is a medium-height maize hybrid that matures in 110 – 120 days. Its outstanding features include a high grain yield of about 10 tons/ha, resistance to aflatoxin B, and suitability for production in Northern and Southern Guinea savannah. Other cultivars released by the Institute include the Castor variety SAMCAS 1, with a potential yield of 3.2 tons/ha and oil yield of 47%. Two extra-early (SAMOAT 3 and SAMOAT 4) and one early (SAMOAT 5) improved oat cultivars were also registered and released. The groundbreaking efforts of the scientists at the Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Ahmadu Bello University, in collaboration with national and international partners, have undoubtedly ushered in a new era of agricultural innovation and advancement in Nigeria. The successful registration and release of improved cultivars spanning maize, sorghum, oat, and castor underscore the institute's unwavering commitment to national development, particularly in addressing challenges related to food and nutritional security.

ii. Similarly, on January 11, 2024, the Institute for Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University achieved a significant milestone as the National Committee on Naming, Registration, and Release of Crop Varieties, Livestock Breeds/Fisheries granted commercial registration and released of four transgenic maize hybrids known as TELA Maize. This milestone, announced at the 37th meeting held at the National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB) in Ibadan, Nigeria, signifies a strategic move towards enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability across the region. The TELA Maize Project, a collaborative effort involving public and private stakeholders, is spearheaded by the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) and spans seven countries in Africa, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. The word 'TELA' is derived from the Latin word TUTELA which means

'Protection'. This groundbreaking initiative, championed by Prof Rabiu Adamu, the Principal Investigator of TELA Maize Nigeria, introduces four distinct maize hybrids - SAMMAZ 72T, SAMMAZ 73T, SAMMAZ 74T, and SAMMAZ 75T. These hybrids have been engineered to exhibit superior drought tolerance, protection against stem borers, and significant resistance to the fall armyworm. Consequently, smallholder farmers stand to benefit from reduced expenditures on insecticides, minimized exposure to harmful chemicals, and improved yields with superior grain quality. The release of these transgenic maize varieties marks a transformative leap in agricultural technology, promising a more resilient and sustainable future for farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. As the TELA Maize Project gains momentum, it is poised to play a pivotal role in addressing pressing challenges and contributing to the overall advancement of food security in the region.

iii. It is equally worthy of mention that the ABUTH Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) in collaboration with Nisa Reproductive Health Centre Kaduna has started offering In vitro Fertilization (IVF) Services. The first IVF-conceived baby was delivered on 16th May 2023, with a weight of 3KG making it the first in any public hospital in Northwest Nigeria. Other subsequent deliveries via this technology have been successfully undertaken. While the embryology laboratory of the private facility centre was used for the collection of female eggs and male sperm for fertilization, the other aspects of treatment and patient management were undertaken at ABUTH. Permit me to use this opportunity to call on Government and other private financiers to assist the University with funding for a complete Centre for Reproductive Medicine which will run both clinical and academic activities.

iv. Research activities at the Africa Centre of Excellence on New Pedagogies in Engineering Education (ACENPEE) have continued to focus on five main areas:

- Engineering content knowledge application and skills.
- Effectiveness of different engineering education pedagogies in enhancing teaching and learning.
- Development and production of prototype engineering pedagogy tools for classroom application – Engineering Learning Experiences Designs (E-LEDs).
- Implementation and evaluation of E-LEDs, and
- Development of new multimedia (pictures, diagrams, animations, videos, etc.) to mediate E-LEDs.

To this end, a new pedagogy, Communicate, Active, Collaborate, Practice, Learning and Assessment (CACPLA) was developed at the Centre. CACPLA was coined from the cooperative, hands-on, active, problem-based learning (CHAPL), and the Discover, Learn, Practice, Collaborate and Assess (DLPCA) pedagogies. These have been widely applied in a number of courses in the Faculty of Engineering.

Another research output from ACENPEE, Box-Behnken experimental design for the process optimisation of catfish bones derived hydroxyapatite: A pedagogical approach. Here, the synthesis, optimization, and evaluation of synthesized hydroxyapatite (HAp) from catfish bones (CB) was carried out to achieve optimum processing

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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conditions and sustainable pedagogical approaches for the preparation of hydroxyapatite scaffolds for tissue engineering.

v. The Materials Science Research team has been working on the effects of electric fields on the properties of materials for high voltage insulation in five principal areas:

- Properties of engineered insulation materials;
- integrity of high voltage insulation materials and system;
- electrical ageing, degradation, and breakdown;
- high voltage insulation reliability studies; and
- nano-dielectrics or dielectric materials made from nano-composites.

### 8.0 STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

I am pleased to inform you that in the last one year our students from various faculties and departments have individually or in groups won several awards of excellence from various organisations within and outside the country for outstanding performances. Notable among them are:

- The ENACTUS TEAM, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria emerged the winner and the Champions at the Nigerian National Competition which was held at the Civic Centre in Lekki, Victoria Island, Lagos. They defeated 41 other Universities and Polytechnics to emerge the FIRST POSITION. The team represented Ahmadu Bello University and Nigeria at the ENACTUS WORLD CUP. ENACTUS TEAM, Ahmadu Bello University came 4<sup>th</sup> position out of the 230 teams that competed at World Cup on Action with Africa (AWA) competition held on 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at Netherlands.
- The ENACTUS, ABU, Zaria further represented the University at National Enterprise Development Challenge in December, 2023. The team came first position with their project called Tompa, a product that converts tomatoes into powder while retaining its natural nutrients and a cash prize of one (1) million naira.
- Two (2) students from Ahmadu Bello University won awards in the Computing Track at the Huawei ICT Competition National Finals (2023-24) that took place on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at Abuja. The students from the University will represent Nigeria at the African Regional Finals in the Computing Track.
- Four Students of the Department of Biochemistry emerged as second (2<sup>nd</sup>) position during the “**39<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference And Annual General Meeting Of The Nigerian Society Of Biochemistry And Molecular Biology (NSBMB)**” which held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 at the Muhammadu Indimi International Conference Centre, University of Maiduguri. They were awarded cash prize of N30,000.00 each, plaque and a certificate.

### 9.0 REJUVENATION OF ACADEMIC DISCOURSE AND EXCHANGES

We are making concerted efforts to regularise the erstwhile critical academic discourse and debates that ABU was well-known for in the past that proffered solutions and shaped national, regional and international policy directions. In the last one year, the following conferences, symposia and public lectures were organised by the University:

#### *International Conferences*

- “Research and Development in Policy Formulation and Implementation in Nigerian Educational System” - 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference organised by the Institute of Education, Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.
- “Exploring Biotechnology as a Solution to Economic and Security Challenges in Post Covid-19 Era” - 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Biotechnology Society of Nigeria, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- “Plants and Their Potential in Converting Contemporary Global Challenges” - 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Meeting of Botanical Society of Nigeria, on 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023.
- “The Role of Science and Technology in the Enhancement of Global Security and Socio-Economic Development” – 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Science Association of Nigeria (SAN), from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.
- “Beyond Sustainable Elections: Interrogating Challenges of Leadership and Governance in Nigeria” - 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference organised by the Department of Political Science and International Studies, on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.
- “Emerging Educational Innovation, Creativity, and Research for Transformation of Teaching and Learning in New Global Reality” – Conference organised by Faculty of Education, on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.
- “Trends and Development in Ceramics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Ceramic Researchers Association of Nigeria (CeRAN), on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.
- “Digital Transformation and Sustainable Development: Perspectives and Implications for Global Economy”- 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference and Postgraduate Colloquium organised by ABU Business School and CBN Centre of Economic Finance, and International Centre of Excellence on Rural Finance and Entrepreneurship, on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.
- “Government Efforts on the Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI): The Nigerian Journey so far” - Conference organised by the Department of Computer Science, on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2023.
- “Gender and Security in Africa: Implications for Sustainable Development Goals” – Conference organised by Gender Policy Unit in conjunction with the Centre for Gender Studies, Bayero University, Kano, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.
- “Contemporary and Emerging Issues in the Practice and Procedure of Islamic Family Law in Nigeria” – Conference organised in Abuja by the Centre for Islamic Legal Studies (CILS), Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

#### *Inaugural/Valedictory/Public Lectures*

- Inaugural Lecture: Performance of Building in the Nigerian Built Environment in the Midst of Microorganisms: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities by Professor Isa Hassan-Enua Mshelgaru, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.
- Inaugural Lecture: Capital Market Adjudication: Judging Judicially and Judiciously. By Professor Augustine Robert Agom of Faculty of Law, on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

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14. Inaugural Lecture: “Skin Deep: Unveiling the Secrets of the Human Body” by Prof. Modupeola O.A. Samaila on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

15. Inaugural Lecture: “The Nexus between Global Banking Crisis and Banking Crisis in Nigeria: Learning from our Past and Managing Our Future by Prof. Sulaiman Abdullahi Karwai, on Wednesday, October, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

16. Inaugural Lecture – “The Drum Beat of Nature: A New Paradigm in Managing Drug Toxicity and Interactions” – Lecturer Prof. Temidayo Olutoyin Olurishe on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

17. Valedictory Lecture: “History of the Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, 1962 – 2022. By Prof. Alkasim Abba on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023.

18. IAR Centenary Lecture: “Agricultural Research, Technology and Innovation as a Catalyst for National Development; Impact on Poverty, Food and Economic Security of Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” by Secretary to the Government of Borno State, Alhaji Bukar Tijjani on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

19. Diamond Jubilee Public Lecture: “The Contributions of the Faculty of Law to the Legal Profession and National Development in Nigeria”, by Prof. M.T. Ladan, Director General, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

20. Public Lecture – Understanding the Nature of the Nigerian Conflict: Foreign Interest and Local Forces” – Dr. Siddique Abubakar Mohammed, Director General CEDDERT, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

21. Diamond Jubilee Public Lecture: “The Challenges of Quality Higher Education in Africa. By Dr. Kole Shettima, Director, Africa MacArthur Foundation, Abuja, on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

22. Diamond Jubilee Public Lecture: “Sixty Years of the Contributions of the Arts to National Development in Nigeria. By Dr. Tanimu Namamu Abubakar, Department of English and Literary Studies, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

### 10.0 STAFF REWARD AND RECOGNITION

In order to create a work environment that is meaningful, fulfilling, and purpose-driven for staff of all categories, a robust reward and recognition system has just been established by the University. This is expected to boost staff morale, increase commitment to job, increase productivity and satisfaction as well as instil trust and motivates employees more than fear of punishment.

After a thorough and rigorous exercise, the Reward and Recognition committee recommended One hundred and seventeen (117) staff members and units of the University for various categories of awards, which were given out on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as part of this 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation ceremony. The Reward and Recognition system is expected to help the University Management reinforce positive staff behaviours, practices, or activities that will lead to better performance and fruitful work outcomes.

### 11.0 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

We have continued to forge value-adding collaborations on educational training and research with a number of national

and international organizations. Within the last year, we have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the following reputable institutions:

1. Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDIN University, Russia)
2. Tanta University, Egypt
3. University of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, Romania
4. University of Pharmacy and Medicine, Bucharest, Romania
5. The University of Nairobi, Kenya
6. The University of Texas at Austin, USA
7. The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
8. The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA - Subsidiary of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Turkey
9. INTI International University operated by INTI International Education SDN BHD, Malaysia
10. CADAP World Inc. Company, Kenya
11. Bionomics Nigeria Limited
12. Kaduna State Scholarship and Loans Board
13. Chartered Institute of Treasury Management (CITM)
14. Quantity Surveyors Registration Board of Nigeria (QSRBN)
15. National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

### 12.0 PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

A number of intervention projects funded by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Capital grants, Internal Development Fund and donors were embarked upon in the last one year; with many completed and others at different stages of completion as follows:

#### A. TETFUND INTERVENTION PROJECTS

- i. Completion and Furnishing of 1000-Seat capacity conference centre (100% Completed).
- ii. Construction of Deans Offices, Classrooms, Seminar rooms for the Faculty of Arts (100% completed).
- iii. Construction, Furnishing and Upgrade of Department of Soil Sciences (100% completed).
- iv. Construction of Extension of Department of Veterinary Medicine (100% completed).
- v. Rehabilitation and Furnishing of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Physiology Departments Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (100% completed).
- vi. Construction of 2-Storey New Accounting Department at ABU Business School (100% completed).
- vii. Construction of Female Hostel at Danfodio Hall (100% completed).
- viii. Construction of Male Hostel at Danfodio Hall (100% completed).
- ix. Conversion of Multipurpose Hall to CBT Centre and Lecture Hall, Kongo campus (100% completed).
- x. Construction of archives at Arewa house, Kaduna (100% completed).
- xi. Construction of Department of Industrial Design (100% completed).
- xii. Renovation of Umaru Shehu, College of Medical Sciences (100% completed).

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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- xiii. Renovation of Faculty of Social Sciences lecture theatres (100% completed).
- xiv. Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Teaching and Research Equipment for Departments of Pathology, Haematology and Physics (100% completed).
- xv. Supply, Installation and Testing of Solar power System at ICT Data Centre (100% completed).
- xvi. Establishment of Endourology and Kidney Transplant Facility (100% completed).
- xvii. Establishment of Next Generation Sequencing for Infectious Diseases (100% completed).
- xviii. Construction and Furnishing of Computer Engineering Department (85% completion).
- xix. Construction and Furnishing of Mechatronics Engineering Dept (85% completion).
- xx. Construction and Furnishing of Faculty of Dentistry (85% completion).
- xxi. Construction and Furnishing of Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (85% completion).

### B. 2023 CAPITAL APPROPRIATION PROJECTS

Under the 2023 capital appropriation, the following projects were executed:

- i. Construction of One Storey Building Sabbatical Quarters (100% completed).
- ii. Construction of Venom, Anti-venom and Natural Toxins Research Centre (Extension of Venom, Anti-Venom and Natural Toxins Research Centre) (100% completed).
- iii. Construction, Furnishing and Equipping of Central, Physical and Medical Laboratories (100% completed).
- iv. Repairs of Internal Access Road within Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (100% completed).
- v. Rehabilitation of University Central Store (100% completed).
- vi. Rehabilitation of Danfodio Students Hostel (90% completion).
- vii. Construction of New Students Hostels at ABUTH, Shika (90% completion).
- viii. Construction/Furnishing of 500-Seater Student Lecture Hall (85% completion).
- ix. Construction of Spectators Pavilion at ABU Stadium Complex (85% completion).
- x. Construction of Perimeter Fence at Area C (80% completion).
- xi. Construction of Management & Leadership Center - Kongo Campus (30% completion).

### C. 2023 INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS

During the period under review, some of the projects executed by the University in the academic, students' hostels and staff residential areas include:

- i. Re-activation of Borehole and Replacement of Water Storage Tanks at Faculty of Law, Institute of Administration (100% completed).
- ii. Emergency Replacement and Upgrade of Blocked Water Pipeline, Construction of Concrete Manhole and Connection to Central Sewage at Biochemistry Department (100% completed).
- iii. In 2023, twenty-eight (28) staff housing renovation projects were awarded; twenty (20) were successfully

completed and taken over, while eight (8) are ongoing, at various stages of completion.

### D. OTHER INTERVENTION/DONATION PROJECTS

- i. Construction of One Block of Students Hostel, (CSR Project by the Abdul Samad Rabiu Africa Initiative) (25% completion).
- ii. Construction of Department of Building, (CSR Project by the Abdul Samad Rabiu Africa Initiative) (25% completion).

### E. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

Ahmadu Bello University is committed to the provision of ICT Infrastructure and Advanced Information Technology Systems for improved ICT-based knowledge to the University community for Teaching, Research and administrative activities. With the support of the ACE Centres, we acquired anti-plagiarism software and subscribed to several high-quality online Journals to support research and post graduate activities. The following additional ICT infrastructure were procured in 2023:

- i. Provision of 10km of Optic Fibre, 310 Internet bandwidth, 20 Solar Infrastructures, 20 access switches and 80 access points were obtained under the NCC Broadband Project. The entire Phase II has now been covered with optic fibre and broadband has been fully deployed.
- ii. The University was offered Microsoft 365 AI for Education License by Microsoft. This has extended the capacity of the University to deploy online courses and conduct of virtual viva voce.
- iii. Provision of 2 Gbps watt, 30 access points and 18 interactive boards.

### 13. SPORTS AND RECREATION

The University continues to advance in sporting programmes under the technical supervision of its professional coaches and has been exceptional in quite a number of games and other sporting activities in the recent times.

#### Hosting:

In 2023, the University hosted the following events:

- i. Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Region II Senior and Under 20 Championships 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.
- ii. Nation Wide National Football League from 3<sup>rd</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> May, 2023
- iii. Savannah Conference Basketball League for Females from 7<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.
- iv. Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) 3<sup>rd</sup> edition on the 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.
- v. Annual Vice-Chancellor's Cup was tagged ABU Diamond Jubilee Football in commemoration of ABU @ 60 from 10<sup>th</sup> October-2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023.

#### Sponsorship:

In 2023, the University sponsored:

- i. ABU Judo team that came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 7 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze medals at the National Judo Open Championship at Delta State University, Abraka, from 13<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May, 2023.
- ii. Zoomax Football Competition to Support ABU @ 60 held between 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.

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## Speech of the Vice-Chancellor at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony

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iii. Connect Marketing Firm with our classical wooden floor to organise American Basketball Association (ABA) programme at the indoor Sports Hall in Abuja from 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023.

iv. Judokas for trials in preparation for All African Games to be held in Ghana in 2024 out of the two invited for the trials, one qualified.

Apart from provision of state-of-the art sporting facilities at the Sport Complex, the University has put in place a Committee on Sports Development mandated to assist in pulling financial and material resources for the development and sustenance of sports. Therefore, the University wishes to call for support, financially or otherwise in that regard.

### 14. ABU ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the formal annual giving campaigns targeted at the alumni of the University have commenced. The Board of Trustees of the Ahmadu Bello University Endowment Foundation approved the minimum one-off or instalmental annual contributions of N25,000 by all graduates of 5 years and above into the Foundation account. Response to the widely circulated call is beginning to gain traction. This effort is geared towards ensuring sustainable inflow of financial resources that will be managed by the Board of Trustees comprising of eminently qualified personalities of high integrity.

In addition, the University is expanding the scope of activities of the automated alumni database to provide opportunities for mentorship, recruitment and networking amongst the ABU alumni community. This is a genuine effort towards harnessing the huge potential of ABU Alumni family to ensure prosperity of the University and those of its graduates.

### 15. CHALLENGES

Your excellencies, Royal Highnesses, ladies and gentlemen, Ahmadu Bello University, like many Nigerian universities, more than ever before continues to face financial challenges to support its vision of sustaining and modernizing its activities and operations, insecurity, power, land and property tussles with State and Federal Government agencies, serious and costly legal battles as well as other government policies that exert tremendous pressure on the effective running of the University. Particularly, the order of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria which had the University's accounts with the Central Bank of Nigeria garnisheed in the sum of **N2,585,130,678.21k (Two Billion, Five Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, One Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-Eight Naira, Twenty-One Kobo)** in respect of Suit No. NICN/ABJ/377M/2017 involving dismissal of some 110 staff between 1996 and 1999 has had devastating effect on the operations of the University. The affected accounts of the University contain third-party funds such as local and foreign research grants, funds belonging to units of the University that are affiliated to and supported by external organisations, as well as funds meant for TETFUND

projects, programmes and foreign scholars. Hence, all aspects of operations requiring complementation of recurring expenditures such as sanitation, electricity, and other forms of utilities as well as overheads costs have been severely hampered. These challenges call for greater collaboration between all stakeholders to fashion out more innovative ways of ensuring smooth running of the University. This is very pertinent considering the obvious need for more investments in ICT and other physical infrastructure as well as capacity development of staff to meet up with the growing challenges of education amidst increasing enrolment and the need to cope with fast changing technological advancements. I therefore call on all our stakeholders including alumni and friends to join hands with us towards ensuring financial sustainability of this great University. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, permit me to express my sincere appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Education, on behalf of my Vice Chancellor colleagues, for courageously taking the bold stand against the seemingly obnoxious policy that consider educational institutions as revenue generating agencies and requiring some financial remittances. We are confident that your efforts towards effecting the necessary legislative amendment will place education on the desired focus as the major catalyst for national development.

Like other Federal universities, ABU has been faced with acute shortage of manpower, especially in academic units due to deaths, retirements, resignations and transfers of service. This has significantly impacted on the staff-students ratio in many programmes against the established threshold by the National Universities Commission whilst continuing to strain the available staff. This challenge resulted from government policies and embargo on employment. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Visitor, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu *GCFR* for approving the Honourable Minister of Education's strategic plea to exempt Federal educational institutions from the IPPIS in order to enable the University recruit the needed staff to alleviate the current shortfall.

### 16. CONCLUSION

To this end, your Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, I salute the courage, patience and resilience of all staff and our dear students who have continued to give their best despite our challenges. We also commend our host communities for their cooperation and understanding, especially with our diverse community of staff and students that cohabit with them.

Finally, I would like to thank your Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, Distinguished Alumni and Invited guests for your continued love and support to Ahmadu Bello University. These mean a lot to us. We will always appreciate your support to the University in upholding the legacy of the founding fathers. I wish you all journey mercies back to your respective destinations.

God bless Ahmadu Bello University!  
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!  
Thank you.



# ABU appreciates all



Dignitaries standing for the National Anthem at the Convocation Ceremonies

The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Kabiru Bala, has, on behalf of Council, Senate, Management, Staff, and Students, expressed the institution's profound appreciation to all dignitaries and guests who attended the 43<sup>rd</sup> Convocation of the University held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.

A total of 25,432 graduands for the 2021/2023 academic session were conferred with first degrees, postgraduate diplomas and higher degrees during the occasion. Four eminent personalities received honorary degrees at the event.

Prof. Bala also acknowledged with immense gratitude all the goodwill messages sent or presented by various visiting Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Provosts, and other Heads of many research institutions congratulating the University on the memorable event.

He stressed that their presence and prayers contributed to the success of the ceremony and that the entire University community would remain grateful to them for the gesture.

"I would like to thank Your Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, Distinguished Alumni, and all invited guests for your continued love and support to Ahmadu Bello University. These mean a lot to us. We will always appreciate your support to the University in upholding the legacy of the founding

fathers", he said.

The Vice-Chancellor, equally, lauded the coverage, patience and resilience of all staff and students who have continued to give their best despite the challenges.

Prof. Bala also commended the host communities for their cooperation and understanding, especially with the institution's diverse setting of staff and students that cohabit with them.

The Vice-Chancellor was particularly appreciative of the following invited dignitaries who attended the occasion in person or through representation:

- His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who is the Visitor to Ahmadu Bello University.
- Prof. Tahir Mamman, OON, Honorable Minister of Education, who represented the Visitor.
- His Excellency, Senator Uba Sani, the Executive Governor, Kaduna State.
- His Excellency, Alhaji Dauda Lawal Dare, the Executive Governor, Zamfara State.
- His Excellency, Malam Dikko Umaru Radda (Ph.D), the Executive Governor, Katsina State represented by Hajiya Hadiza Abubakar Yar'Adua, Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of

Basic and Secondary Education, Katsina State.

- His Excellency Donald Duke, CON, former Governor, Cross River State, and his wife, Mrs. Onari Donald Duke.
- His Excellency, Senator Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo, former Governor, Gombe State.
- Senator Muktar Muhammad Dandutse, Chairman Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund.
- Senator Shuaib Afolabi Salisu, Ogun Central Senatorial District
- His Majesty, Nnaemeka Alfred Ugochukwu Achebe, CFR, mni, Obi of Onitsha and Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University.
- His Highness, Amb. Malam Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, CFR, the Emir of Zazzau.
- His Royal Highness, the Emir of Fika and Chairman Yobe State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr). Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, CON, CFR
- His Highness, Emir of Fune, Alhaji Dr. Saleh Idris Ibn Usman.
- Dr. Suleyman Ndanusa, OON, former Chairman/Director General Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Representative of the Director-General, DSS.
- The Director-General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic

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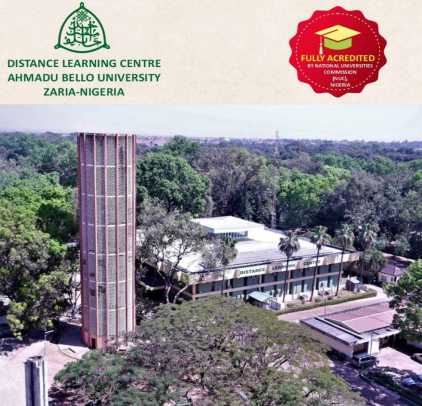
## ABU appreciates all

Continued from page 49

- Studies, NIPSS, Kuru, Prof. Ayo Omotayo, represented by Dr. Osime Samuel.
- Hon. Justice Muhammad Lawal Uwais, GCON.
- Alh. Ali Adamu Fika, on behalf of the entire late Adamu Fika family.
- Hajiya Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Former African Union Representative to the United Nations, Her Excellency, Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao.
- Hajiya Naja'atu Muhammed.
- Prof. Aliyu Shugaba, Vice-Chancellor, University of Maiduguri, Borno State.
- Prof. Bernard Malam Matur, Vice-Chancellor, Plateau State University, Bokos – Nigeria.
- Prof. Aliyu Usman El-Nafaty, OFR, Vice-Chancellor, Gombe State University.
- Prof. Suleiman Bala Mohammed, Vice-Chancellor, Nassarawa State University, Keffi.
- Prof. M.G. Abubakar, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Gusau.
- Prof. Abdulkarim Sabo Mohammed, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Dutse, Jigawa State.
- Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN, Vice-Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano.
- Prof. John Olu-Coris Aiyedogbon, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Green Field University, Kaduna.
- Prof. Olufemi A. Peters, Vice-Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN).
- Prof. Sunday Paul Bako, Vice-Chancellor, Taraba State University, Jalingo.
- Prof. Umar Adam Katsayal, mni, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Transportation, Daura, Katsina State.
- Prof. Musa Tukur Yakasai, Vice-Chancellor, Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology, Wudil Kano State.
- Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim Yakasai, Vice-Chancellor, Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa.
- Prof. Umar Pate, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State.
- Prof. A.K. Adamu, Vice-Chancellor, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University (IBBU) Lapai, Niger State.
- Prof. Shehu Abdulrahman, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Lafia.
- Prof. Maimuna Waziri, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Gashua.
- Prof. Armaya'u H. Bichi, Vice-Chancellor, Federal University, Dutsin-ma.
- Prof. Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, Vice-Chancellor, Kaduna State University.
- Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto.
- Prof. Tanko Ishaya, FBCS, FNCS, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos, Jos – Nigeria.
- Prof. Muktar Atiku Kurawa, Vice-Chancellor, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano.
- Prof. S.U. Kunya, FNIOB (DVC Academic) for Vice-Chancellor, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi State.
- Dr. Isma'ila Ado Funtua, Provost, Isa Kaita College of Education, Dutsinma, Katsina State.
- Dr. Suleiman Umar, Rector, Kaduna Polytechnic.
- Dr. Suleiman Balarabe, Provost, Federal College of Education, Zaria.
- Yakubu A. Ochefu Ph.D, FHSN, FNAL, Provost and Secretary General – Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities.
- Prof. Isa Garba, Academy Provost for Commandant, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Kaduna State – Nigeria.
- Dr. Sadi Mohammed Sirajo, Provost/CE, Federal College of Education, Kano.
- Prof. Auwal Kasim, Provost, Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna.
- Prof. Suleiman Elias Bogoro, former Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, (TETFund).
- National President, Ahmadu Bello University, Alumni Association, Malam Adamu Mamman Kontagora, and the entire EXCOS.
- Prof. S.U. Abdullahi, Former Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
- Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State
- Prof. Yusuf Ahmed, Chairman/CEO, Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC).
- Dr. Yemi Ogunbiyi, Former Managing Director, Daily Times of Nigeria
- Mr. Chuka Ebere
- Mr. Ben Amony
- Barr. Asuquo Cowan
- Mr. Dalhatu Aminu
- Dr. Sani Ibrahim Amin, Former Member, ABU Council
- Prof. Isiaka Adekunle Amoo, Former Member, ABU Council
- Alhaji Abubakar Ibrahim Azara, Former Member, ABU Council
- Dr. Stella Ngozi Anasi, Former Member, ABU Council
- Rector, Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria
- Director General, Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology (NILEST), Zaria
- Director General, National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT), Zaria
- Director General, National Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), Zaria
- Commandant, 11 Field Engineering, Basawa, Zaria
- Commandant, Nigerian Army School of Legal Studies, Basawa, Zaria
- Commandant, Nigerian Army Depot, Zaria
- Commandant, Nigerian Army School of Military Police, Zaria
- Zonal Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Zaria
- Area Commander, Zaria Police Command
- Zaria Community and Religious Leaders, and
- Many others too numerous to mention here.



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Landline: +44(0)207 3971181

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ABU DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE (DLC)  
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria - Nigeria  
Tel: +234(0)815 300 0010, +234(0)817 300 0010, +234(0)906 405 8469  
Email: [support@abudlc.edu.ng](mailto:support@abudlc.edu.ng)  
Website: [abudlc.edu.ng](http://abudlc.edu.ng)

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