

FUTMINNA SETS UP FUND FOR INDIGENT STUDENTS

• VC flags off Institutional Performance Retreat

By Ugboaja Stanley U.



Participants during the Institutional Performance Retreat

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

The Vice-Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn has unveiled a benevolence fund set up to assist indigent students.

The unveiling of the scheme took place during the 2rd and 3rd Annual Institutional Performance Review Retreat held at the PTDF Chemical Engineering Lecture Theatre, Main Campus on Monday, November 29, 2021.

Speaking at the event, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the University Benevolence Fund was introduced to address the

growing trend of many students being forced to abandon their studies or drop out of the University due to their poor financial status and inability to fund their tuition, adding that the Fund would provide loans, advice and assistance to indigent students within the guidelines that would be developed by the University Students Financial Aid Committee (USFAC).

"The University Students Financial Aid Committee is to provide regulations, oversight and management for the Fund. It is the intention of Management to ensure the independence of

the Committee and to immune it against unnecessary bureaucratic encumbrance hence the decision to appoint an external person as the chair of the Committee.

"The inclusion of students in important policy processes in the University has received tremendous attention under us. Several students informally work with senior academics across the campus. Opportunities are increasingly provided within the University for student volunteering and internship. For example, about 20 students participated as volunteering

Contd on Page 2

members of the Committee on Performance Evaluation, Documentation and Publication. Not only did this allow them build capacity and experience, it made it possible for them to directly meet, interrogate and score the performance of very senior officers of the University," the Vice-Chancellor disclosed.

Prof. Bala expressed optimism that stakeholders of the University would generously contribute to the Fund, while enjoining the Senate, Congregation, Convocation, cooperative societies and the religious bodies in the University to sensitize and rally members towards the contribution.

"Already, the policy provides for students' contribution through 20 percent of the Students' Union dues. I believe that, in the future, the Fund will grow and become strong enough to receive the scholarship and similar financial benefits awarded to students by the University for disbursement to approved student beneficiaries," he stated.

The University helmsman further disclosed that the scheme will also provide loans to students of the University without interest.

On the importance of the retreat, the Vice-Chancellor stated that the retreat would afford the University a veritable platform for stock-taking, noting that officers saddled with different responsibilities would give account of their stewardship in the last two years under review.

"I hope that the various presentations will enable us identify the gaps that need to be addressed to make our organization continue its unstoppable march to greatness in line with the vision of the founding fathers," he enthused.

The University administrator stated that over 180 participants are expected at the retreat as against the 63 that attended that of 2019.

"This year's edition will have as part of its activities the presentation of the Report of Institutional Self-Evaluation undertaken by the Committee on Performance Evaluation, Documentation and Publication, the presentation of performance reports by various offices in six thematic areas, six discussion sessions, launching of four University policies, launching of the University Benevolence Fund and the One Programme, One Product Policy as well as the presentation of the 1st Vice-Chancellor's Commendation Awards," he revealed.

Meanwhile, Prof. Bala stated that the University Management has accepted the findings and recommendations of the Committee for the award of the 1st Vice-Chancellor's Commendation to deserving departments, staff and students who, through their work and devotion, have contributed to different aspects of the development and good image of the University, especially between December, 2017 and December, 2020.

"Universities all over the world have the triple mandate of teaching, research and community service. Too often, we tend to dwell so much on the first two at the expense of the third. FUT, Minna is closing in on four decades of existence; it is therefore, sufficiently mature to begin to impact visibly and meaningfully on its immediate community, and indeed the nation at large, in terms of the production, promotion and provision of goods and services for socio-economic development," the VC added.

Also speaking, Chairman of the Committee which developed the

Students Support Services Policy and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Emmanuel Emeka Udensi, fnip, said the Benevolence Fund would address a major pain-point for indigent students. Prof. Udensi reiterated that students of the University would also be granted interest-free loans to fund their final year projects and to cater for any other unforeseen circumstances.

The highlight of the opening session of the retreat was the unveiling of the Report of Institutional Self-Evaluation and Midterm Performance Assessment of the 2017 to 2020 Vision Statement of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Bala undertaken by the Committee on Performance Evaluation, Documentation and Publication chaired by Barr. Kassim Agbonika.

Also at the retreat, the Vice-Chancellor launched five policy documents namely: Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy, the Institutional Advancement Policy, the Students Support Services Policy, the Intellectual Property Policy and the One-Programme-One-Product Scheme.

He also presented certificates of commendation to some departments, Centres, and other individuals for exceptional service delivery, outstanding scholarly publication in reputable journals as well as those who won international fellowships.

The four-day retreat ended on Thursday, December 2, 2021, with a communique containing resolutions reached.

PARENTAL MEDIATION: PROF. KUR TASKS PARENT ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

By Abdullahi U. Danbakaba



Prof. Kur presenting his lecture.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

Prof. Jude Terna Kur of the Department of Information and Media Technology, Federal University of Technology, Minna, has called on parents to embrace the digital technologies approach as a tool for parental mediation on the children's cognitive and emotional growth and development.

He made the call while delivering the 96th inaugural lecture of the University titled "Media Technologies and Children, a Curate's Egg; Parental Mediation, the Mother's Milk," on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at the University Auditorium, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Prof. Kur posited that doing so would help to maximize the benefits and mitigate the risks of child's exposure to media contents driven by technology.

He stated that children are naturally created good but get

influenced positively or negatively by society, adding that, as a result of the biological attraction and close proximity that naturally surfaces between them, the parents are the most influential in the task of developing and socializing a child.

The inaugural lecturer who insisted that media contents have direct and consequential influence on the attitudinal behaviour of a child, also stressed the need for the government and other stakeholders in child development to embark on conscious awareness campaigns to sensitize the public on the importance of parental mediation with the view to instilling the value of appropriate usage of the emerging media technologies rather than restricting them.

He said it is instructive to develop and introduce parental

mediation curriculum in higher institutions of learning to not only promote the children's responsive experiences with the media technologies, but also position them as active participants in a digital economy which is the yearning of Nigeria and other developing nations of the world.

He also said that the informal and semi-formal parental mediation education need to be emphasized in order to complement the formal system operating in our educational sector currently, noting that, government policies and strong political will are however required to encourage conscious and deliberate planning and administration of sound parental mediation techniques.

Making his remarks shortly after the presentation, the Vice-Chancellor of the University,

Contd on Page 2

Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn congratulated Prof. Kur for the successful presentation of the inaugural lecture.

Highlights of the event include presentation of awards in

recognition of the inaugural lecturer's contributions to knowledge by the University management, School of Information and Communication Technology, Department of Information and Media Technol-

ogy, the University Seminar and Colloquium Committee, final year students of the Department of Information and Media Technology and the Tiv Community in the University.

CYPHER DONATES \$2.1M SOFTWARE TO FUTMINNA

By Ugboaja Stanley U.



The technical Director/CEO, Cypher Crescent Limited, Mr. Egbe delivering his paper at the event.

Photo Credit: Elijah Yisa

As part of effort to boost teaching and research, Cypher Crescent Limited has donated 20 licences of SEPAL software worth \$2.1 million dollars to the Federal University of Technology, Minna.

The donation was announced by the Technical Director/CEO of the company, Mr. Thankgod Egbe, while presenting a paper at the 2nd and 3rd Institutional Performance Review Retreat held at the PTDF Lecture Theatre, Chemical Engineering Complex on Wednesday, December 1, 2021.

Mr. Egbe said the SEPAL software is an innovative technology developed by Cypher Crescent for efficient well and reservoir

management, adding that it is the first of its kind in the industry for end-to-end Well and Reservoir Management (WRM) solution, adding that it integrates data from the five core WRM discipline (reservoir engineering, protection technology, petrophysics production geology and asset well engineering).

He disclosed that Cypher Crescent Company would also organize a free training for students of the University on the use and management of the WRM. Further, Mr. Egbe states that the software and the training would improve the quality and output of academic research and prepare them for the industry.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdullahi Bala, fsssn, expressed appreciation to the company for finding FUT, Minna worthy of the donation. He assured the company that the software would be judiciously utilized to scale up research in the institution.

The Vice-Chancellor also thanked Mr. Egbe for bankrolling his visit to the University to present the paper at the retreat at no cost to the institution, despite donating a multi-million dollar software to the University. He added that the University would partner with his company in relevant areas that would be of mutual benefits to both parties.

SUBMISSION OF NYSC DISCHARGE/EXEMPTION/ EXCLUSION CERTIFICATE BY STAFF RELEASED FOR STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Management at its 287th Meeting held on Wednesday, 7th September, 2021 considered the report of the Committee that investigated a case of abscondment from duty by a staff. Management observed with displeasure that some study fellows are in the habit of breaching the study fellowship regulations especially by refusing to return to their duty post after completion of their studies.

Consequently, Management approved that henceforth, staff proceeding on Study Fellowship in addition to completion of Study Fellowship Bond must deposit original of their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Discharge/Exemption/Exclusion Certificate with the Registrar before leaving for the fellowship.

Management also directed that henceforth, each study fellow is required to provide to the Registrar, within three months of the commencement of their fellowship the contact details (including phone numbers and e-mail addresses) of the Registrar of the institution in which the fellowship is tenured, as well as the contact details of their main/major supervisor.

Deans, Directors and Heads of Department/Units are requested to bring this to the notice of their staff for strict compliance, please.

CUSTOMERS' FORUM

This is to inform all staff of the University that the following Pension Funds Administrators (PFA) are organizing a sensitisation exercise on financial wellness and the recent development in the pension industry:

1. LEADWAY PENSURE

Date: Tuesday, 7th December, 2021

Venue: Carverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Time: 10:00am

2. SIGMA PENSION LIMITED

Date: Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

Venue: Carverton Lecture Theatre, School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano.

Time: 10:00am

UPGRADING

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the upgrading of Mohammed, Aminu Nuhu, Department of Horticulture and Muhammad, Fatima Enagi, Department of Microbiology from Graduate Assistant to Assistant Lecturer with effect from 25th June, 2021 and 29th June, 2021 respectively.

WITHDRAWAL OF SERVICE

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the Withdrawal of Service from the University of Hashir Aliyu Mohammed, Department of Cyber Security Sciences with effect from 30th November, 2021.

COUNSELLING TIPS

As a honourable staff of this citadel of learning, do not *use* force or harassment to initiate, sustain and culminate a relationship with an opposite sex on campus, be he or she a student or staff. Be sincere enough to share with your spouse (if married) and with closed friends and parents (if single), your level of relationship with anyone. They serve as your defence in the day of unforeseen circumstance.

**Guidance and Counselling Unit,
Students' Affairs Division.**

MONEY MATTER

Weekly Financial Digest for Monday 22nd November - Friday 28th, 2021

N/S	RECEIPTS	N
1	Transcript	883,720.00
2	Collection of Certificate	162,000.00
3	Verification/ Proficiency in English	12,000.00
4	Enterprenuership Training	5,000.00
5	Turnitin	11,000.00
6	Commerical Activities (Shop)	91,000.00
7	Teaching Practice	12,000.00
8	Purchase of Academic Gown	266,000.00
9	Clearance Fees	108,000.00
10	Prepaid Meter	106,400.00
11	Semesterial Result	400.00
12	Acceptance Fees	20,000.00
13	Registration Fees-Pre Degree	1,751,250.00
14	Post Graduate School Fees	10,763,250.00
15	Undergraduate School Fees	5,717,600.00
16	Sales of Forms-Pre Degree	125,000.00
17	Hostel Accommodation Fees	120,000.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	20,154,620.00
18	Contractors/Suppliers	
	(i) Staff	
	(a) Advance	2,212,515.75
	(b) Refund /Payment to Staff	13,346,801.00
	(ii) Contractors/Suppliers	
	(a) FUTMIN Water - Supply	42,000.00
	(b) Leah Eyagi Yisa - Refreshment	1,194,800.00
	(c)The Summit Chambers - Service	1,500,000.00
	(d) ITF - Training	500,000.00
	(e) Sogafvome Enterprise - Supply	2,348,875.00
	(f) Falana Suites LTD - Hotel Bill	148,610.00
	(g) Chelsea Hotel LTD - Hotel Bill	88,650.00
	(h) Princess Az-Zahra Lodge - Hotel Bill	576,620.00
	(i) MTN Bandwidth - Subscription	1,795,596.00
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	23,754,467.75