



COVID-19: **BUK Management Salutes Frontline Health Workers, Promises Special Incentive**

By Lamara Garba



Medical Doctors and other Health Workers at COVID-19 BUK Test Centre

The Management of Bayero University, Kano has commended the courage, sacrifice and patriotism of the University's frontline health workers for their commitment in fighting the dreaded Coronavirus Pandemic.

Speaking on Saturday, 30th May, 2020 during the commissioning of a new multi-purpose testing machine, *GeneEXpert* at the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR), donated by a philanthropist, Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, said, by their action the staff have really shown the world that they are truly patriotic.

“You are indeed patriotic people with the interest of the country at heart. The Management of the University appreciates all your commitment and dedication to fighting this pandemic. Despite many of you having spent three months without salary, yet, you exhibit a unique quality which is the trademark of your sacrifice,” said Professor Bello.

According to him, in appreciation of this commitment, the University is organizing a special incentive to each

and every one of the frontline health worker. This, he said would go a long way in boosting the morale of the staff because they abandoned their families and other comforts under this harsh economic condition in order to check the pandemic at bay.

The Vice Chancellor equally promised to contact other relevant bodies and authorities with a view to providing an allowance for the staff, saying that no amount of incentive would be too much compared to the sacrifices they made.

Professor Bello also assured that all the necessary protective equipments were provided to the staff, because, their safety is of paramount importance.

He equally commended the management of AKTH for what he described as their unique support and assistance to the University, which he said is very rare and unique.

Also, the Vice Chancellor showered encomiums on the donor, Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano (AA Rano) whom he said is one person very special to the University for his tireless support and assistance to the growth and development of the university.

He said the donated testing machine would go a long way in drastically fighting the pandemic out of our society. He appealed to other individuals, groups and corporate organizations to emulate the good gesture of AA Rano.

Presenting the machine, the donor, Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano, who was represented by his Manager, Alhaji Salisu Ibrahim Balarabe, said that the gesture was

informed by the desire to give his support in the fight against the dreaded disease.

He assured that the doors of his company to Bayero University Kano remained open always and that the University should not hesitate to approach his company for any kind of support and assistance. He promised to provide the cartridges within which the machine would be using in taking the samples.

BUK, AKTH Collaboration Unique Model in Nigeria ...Says VC

By Lamara Garba

The cordial relationship existing between Bayero University, Kano (BUK) and the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) is a unique model in Nigeria worthy of emulation by any organization yearning to have maximum impact in the society, the Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, has said.

He spoke on Saturday, 30th May, 2020 during the commissioning of additional COVID-19 testing machine at the University's Centre for Infectious Diseases



Prof. M. Y. Bello (right) and Prof. Abdulrahman Sheshe (left)

Research. The Vice Chancellor was particularly thrilled at the brotherly mode of operation between the two organizations over the years.

“To be candid the cordial relationship between the University and the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital is unique which should serve as a role model in Nigerian setting,” saying that the BUK and AKTH have been operating in one pedestal of mutual understanding and cooperation for the overall interest of Kano community and Nigeria as a whole.

“Bayero University and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital are one and the same thing. We have been operating in the most dignified manner right from the beginning which is

the reason for our successes. It will interest people to note that initially, when we started our medical programme, about 80% of our teaching staff in the Faculty of Medicine were full staff of AKTH serving only as honorary lecturers and now that the Faculty has metamorphosed to a College, almost 90% of our full time lecturers render services to AKTH and this is as a result of positive understanding of the roles played by each other,” said the Vice Chancellor.

According to him if all organizations could do as we have been doing, Nigeria would have been transformed beyond imagination, pointing out that collaboration and mutual understanding are key to achieving greatness.

“Indeed, it will be difficult for an outsider to differentiate between BUK staff and that of AKTH and or our facility and that of the hospital; we share many things in common for the overall growth and development of the two organizations and for the benefit of Kano community,” said Prof. Bello.

In his speech, the Chief Medical Director of AKTH, Professor Abdulrahman Sheshe said AKTH and BUK have done a great deal to the community in the fight against the pandemic.

The CMD, while appreciating the resilience and personal commitment of the Vice Chancellor in the provision of excellent facilities at the Test Centre, explained that AKTH is always proud to associate with BUK.

He said the establishment of the test centre and the collaborative efforts of the staff of the hospital and the University had tremendously helped in reducing the negative effect of the pandemic not only in Kano, but as well in the neighbouring states.

Professor Sheshe was glad to disclose that due to this team work, the number of deaths in Kano has significantly reduced in the month of May compared to what obtained in the previous months. He also announced that the Kano communities have been helpful in that direction disclosing that only last week a team of professionals from the state donated some protective and safety equipments worth over N16 million to the hospital, which is a good development.

The CMD equally announced that all clinical services in the hospital had resumed full operation, so as to further consolidate in the positive impact of the fight against the pandemic and other routine medical activities.

BUK Gets GeneXpert Machine for Covid-19 Testing

By Nura Garba



Representative of A. A. Rano, Alhaji Salisu Ibrahim Balarabe (2nd right); presenting the equipment to VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello (3rd right) flanked by CMD AKTH, Prof. A. Sheshe, Director CIDR, Prof. Isa Abubakar and Provost CHS, Prof. Ibrahim A. Yakasai

Bayero University, Kano on Saturday, 30th May, 2020 launched GeneExpert Machine for Covid-19 Testing at the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR)

It is Premature to Celebrate Decline of Cases in Kano- Epidemiologist

By Nura Garba

An Epidemiologist and Director Centre for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR), Bayero University, Kano, Professor Isa Abubakar has expressed worry over the decline in the cases of coronavirus in Kano, warning that it is too early to celebrate.

In recent days, the number of cases in Kano State has significantly declined prompting celebration from many quarters in the state that the situation is being put under control. This has engineered many people to call for outright removal of the lockdown and people should be allowed to move freely without restrictions.

In an interview with the Bulletin on 30th May, 2020, shortly after Alhaji Auwalu Abdullahi Rano (AA Rano) donated an ultra-modern GeneExpert machine to BUK's Covid-19 Test Centre, the Medical Expert believed that it was premature for people to start celebrating in view of the large population of people in Kano compared to a minimal number tested.

He advocated for more testing facilities in the state to track positive cases and put the situation under control, warning that community transmission might pose serious danger to the lives of people.

According to him, what would impress him the most is the situation whereby there are many testing across the state and few positive cases, saying if that is done people can begin to celebrate the decline of the pandemic.

On the donated equipment, Professor Abubakar said it

which was donated by Alhaji Auwalu Abdulahi (AA Rano) in conjunction with Aliko Oil Company.

The GeneEperit Machine is certified by a European Registration body and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). It is faster than the other testing machines, as it can run four samples at a time.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, who received the equipment on behalf of the University, commended the donor, A.A Rano for his philanthropic gesture, which he said would help to scale up testing of suspected covid-19 cases in Kano, Jigawa and Katsina States, saying that Bayero University would continue to compliment the efforts of the federal and state governments in fighting the dreaded coronavirus pandemic.

The Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research, Professor Isa Abubakar said the new machine has the capacity of conducting 40 tests in a day.

would increase the centre's testing capacity to serve Kano and neighbouring states. He added that the only way to go is to upscale the capacity of testing in those states "so that we know the exact picture of the pandemic."

Professor Abubakar hinted that if the positive cases are indentified, necessary measures would be taken to isolate them, treat them and search for more cases.



Prof. Isa Abubakar, Director CIDR

School Resumption: VC Offers Safety Guideline

By Adamu Garba

In preparation for the resumption of schools across the nation, the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello has offered safety guidelines for COVID-19.

Speaking during a live programme at Arewa Radio on Sunday 31st May, 2020, Professor Yahuza who is also the Chairman of Kano COVID-19 Fund Raising Committee, explained that the guideline is aimed at assisting staff and students to take precautionary measures to prevent the contamination of the novel Coronavirus when the lock-down is relaxed and academic activities resumed.

He said, even though he has no idea about when schools will resume, it is expected that before resumption, all lecture halls, students' hostels and offices would be free from all hazards that could expedite the spread of the Virus.

Professor Bello said the University is providing the necessary facilities and cleaning materials to maintain clean and safe environment.

Some of the precautionary measure set aside by the University according to him, include among others: fumigation, establishment of hand-wash/sanitizers for staff, students and visitors as well as observing social

distancing protocol.

The Vice Chancellor also commended the standards and general precautions put in place by the government to ensure speedy resumption of schools.

It could also be recalled that recently, the University has



VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello

imposed a compulsory use of face mask for all staff, students and visitors in all its campuses as part of measures to combat dreaded corona virus.

CIRCULAR

To: Members of the University Community

COMPULSORY USE OF FACE MASK

As part of measures to ensure the safety of all and the need to curtail the spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), as advised by medical experts, the Management of the University has resolved to enforce the compulsory use of face mask by everyone within the University premises including staff, students and visitors to the campuses of the University.

This policy is with immediate effect.

Consequently, security personnel have been authorized to ensure full compliance.

Keep social distancing, wash your hands and use hand sanitizers to stay safe.

SIGNED:

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For: Registrar



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