Another Handshake Across the Niger

Matriculating Students Taking Oaths

Dr. A. B. Baffa Executive Sect. TETFund

President Buhari Discussing with King Alfred Papapereye Diele-Spiff
Vision
To lead in research and education in Africa

Mission
Committed to addressing African developmental challenges through cutting-edge research, knowledge transfer and training of high quality graduates

Core Values
Humanity and Sacrifice
Discipline and Commitment
Integration and Active learning
Professionalism and Good Governance
Innovation and Creativity

Motto
“Wa Fawqa Kulli Dhi Ilmin Alim”
“... And above every possessor of knowledge, there is the One more learned.” (Q12:76)
Building bridges across the nation's geopolitical divides is one initiative that needs the support of all well-meaning Nigerians. Despite over five decades of nationhood, some people in the country appear to still harbour some elements of suspicion for individuals and groups across ethnic, religious and geographical leanings. Undoubtedly, this unfortunate situation seems to stand in the way of genuine national integration. But not leaving anything to chance and in its efforts to promote national integration, the federal government came up with the idea of appointing Chancellors of federal tertiary institutions from different zones to superintend over zones other than their places of origin. BUK is one of the beneficiaries of this national integration experiment when King Alfred Papapereye Diez Spiff, Sereiyai II, the Amanyanabo of Twon Brass was appointed as its Chancellor. And that has already initiated what seems to be a bridge building project as part of the institution's plan to further consolidate the laudable exemplary leadership qualities exhibited by the Chancellor of the institution, one of the remnants of detribalised Nigerians. In this edition, we bring to you the various efforts of this rare gem, a quintessential leader in fostering peace across the Niger. Also in this edition the university played host to the Executive Secretary of TETfund, Dr. Abdullahi Bichi Baffa, who commissioned six projects executed with TETfund intervention funds. The projects were spread across the New Campus and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH). At the end of the exercise, the TETfund boss could not hide his feelings about what he saw on ground. We, therefore, bring to you some of the finest adjectives he used to describe BUK's TETfund projects. As part of its efforts to promote the knowledge and practice of Islamic finance in Nigeria and beyond, the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIIBF) organized an International Conference on Islamic Banking and Finance with the theme 'Islamic Banking and Finance: Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Development.' We share with you the import of the conference and its knotty gritty. Last, but not the least, is the Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training (AKCDRT), which brought together the two natural allies, Religious Leaders and Civil Society Organizations (CSO's), to synergize and sustain the Buhari-led federal government's fight against corruption. This edition promises to be an interesting package for the reader, God Willing.
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Mainstreaming Islamic Finance

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Holds BUK As a Model Beneficiary

**ACCREDITATION**
COREN is About Quality Assurance

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BUK Today: February, 2017 | www.buk.edu.ng
Mainstreaming Islamic Finance
As Veritable Catalyst for Global Economic Growth and Financial Stability

Lamara Garba who attended the International conference on Islamic Banking and Finance, shares with us his understanding that the fast expanding global pool of shari’ah compliant capital has attracted various sovereign governments and corporate entities to key into it as a means of meeting their financial needs.

Since the renaissance of Islamic Finance about four decades ago, its potential and viability towards bolstering economic growth and development through ethical principles is being manifested across the globe. Indeed many developed and developing nations, including non-Muslim majority countries are now systematically keying in to it as an alternative system of finance that is capable of accelerating poverty reduction efforts through financial inclusion and social enterprise.

Therefore, as part of its efforts to promote the knowledge and practice of Islamic finance in Nigeria and beyond, the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIIBF) of Bayero University Kano, which so far is the only University based institute of Islamic Finance in the country, has been organizing series of conferences, seminars and workshops at both national and International levels.

The objectives of such programmes include increasing the knowledge and awareness of stakeholders on the philosophy, principles and operational framework of Islamic finance as well as exposing them to the national and international regulatory guidelines on non-interest financial transactions. The events also serve as avenues for sharing results of cutting edge researches in the field as well as experiences of Islamic finance researchers and practitioners.

In this respect, the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, Bayero University, Kano (IIIBF BUK) started the year 2017 with an International conference with the theme “Islamic Banking and Finance: Financial Inclusion and Sustainable Development”. The conference, which was conducted in collaboration with the Islamic Research and Training Institute, Jeddah, took place between the 19th and the 21st of January 2017 at Bayero University, Kano. The main goal of the Conference was to explore how Islamic finance can be used as a tool for poverty alleviation, employment generation and financial inclusion.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, former Finance Minister and Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria and was also attended by the Executive Governor of Kano State, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, represented by the Deputy Governor, Professor Hafiz Abubakar. The Chief Host, the Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, declared the conference open, while the Director of the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance; Professor Binta Tijjani Jibril delivered the welcome address. Among the dignitaries also in attendance were: Dr. Ousmane Seck, the Representative of the Director General of the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI); Mr. Mayoro Niang, Country Portfolio Manager, Islamic Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, receiving an award as promoter of Islamic Banking and Finance from the Deputy Governor of Kano State, Prof. Hafiz Abubakar

As Veritable Catalyst for Global Economic Growth and Financial Stability
Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Dr. Yakubu A. Umar, Special Adviser to the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria on Islamic Finance; Mr. Oluseye Owojebi, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria represented by Mr Akin Morakinyo; and Ambassador Adamu Babangida Ibrahim, Director General, Jaiz Foundation.

The conference was unique in its international outlook, with participants from Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Morocco, Sudan, India, Egypt, Qatar, Ghana and Senegal. This further underscores the global appeal for Islamic Finance. Over nine hundred people attended the opening ceremony out of this number, more than 200 people were registered as participants. A total of 78 papers on various aspects of Islamic Finance, financial inclusion and sustainable development were presented at 17 Plenary and Parallel sessions.

His Highness, the Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON delivered a keynote address. He commended the efforts of IIIBF and Bayero University for their tireless efforts in creating awareness among the general public regarding the benefits of Islamic Finance, which if supported by good regulatory system, will contribute towards financial inclusion and sustainable development. The Emir then gave a brief survey of modern Islamic banking and finance, emphasizing that the global Islamic financial services industry has made significant growth within the period of the last four decades. He said the concept in particular had grown from a niche to a mainstream financial intermediation system. While re-echoing the effectiveness and the viability of Islamic banking and finance, Muhammad Sanusi II noted that the system has witnessed significant evolution including more diversity in offering ethical financial services, growth in asset size, geographical spread and overall development both in terms of regulation as well as existence of supportive infrastructural institutions. He posited that Islamic finance had grown beyond its traditional home in the MENA countries and South and South East Asia to find acceptance in global financial centers of Asia and Europe and recently it has been embraced emerging market economies in Africa. In addition, he said that the growth of Islamic finance has permeated the three financial sectors of banking, insurance and the capital markets. To this end, the industry has reached a total value of $1.88 trillion by 2015 as indicated by 2016 Islamic Financial Services Industry Stability Report, explaining that the concept is quite innovative, already it has registered more than competitive growth in relation to its conventional peers.

The Emir also revealed that many Muslims reject the formal financial services because of the non-compatibility of the services with the tenets of Islam, which resulted in the exclusion of many people, based on religious inclination. The problem with this is that financial inclusion is a key component of inclusive development, which is very necessary for sustainable growth. Regrettably, Nigeria and the sub Saharan African region are lagging behind in this respect. According to a survey conducted in 2014 by Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access (EFInA), 39.5% of Nigeria’s adults are financially excluded with the North East and North West regions which have the highest rates in Nigeria of 68.4% and 56.0% respectively.

The Emir concluded that Islamic financing modalities offer strong potentials for public-private partnerships in the financing of physical and social infrastructure. The Sukuk (Islamic capital market instrument) can as well be structured as a partnership instrument to channel capital into productive activities (or for the real economy). When appropriately structured, he said, sukuk are well suited for infrastructure financing to fill in the funding gap for infrastructure and to support the developmental aim of achieving quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient domestic, regional and trans-border infrastructure. In relation to this, he argued that, even the United Nations development agenda was modeled along the principles of Islamic finance model. “Under the UN developmental goal of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic
growth, the concept of risk sharing which is the pillar of Islamic finance aptly illustrates the relevance of Islamic finance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”. Thus, the concept of risk sharing under Islamic finance attaches greater premium on value creation and economic viability of investment that creates new wealth. It has the potential of achieving higher rate of financial inclusion.”

Already, the Emir of Kano disclosed many non-Muslim countries have ventured into the Islamic Finance, which included the United Kingdom and South Africa; whom have both issued sovereign sukuk also the West African states of Senegal, Gambia, Cote D’Ivoire, and Togo have ventured into the Islamic Finance system. In Nigeria, Osun State has issued a sub-sovereign sukuk of N11.6 billion and used the proceeds to build secondary schools within the state. In addition to infrastructure development and financial inclusion, Islamic financing facilities can be used for funding various social projects such as immunization programmes, student educational loans and green energy projects, among others. The Emir further explained that in developing nations, it has often been observed that low levels of both taxes and social spendings limit the redistributive role of fiscal policy. Therefore, the inherent principles of Islamic finance lead to fair and equitable resource allocation and the reduction of income inequality. To this end, redistributive instruments such as Zakkat and Waqf (endowment) play a vital role in social protection and alleviating poverty. He therefore called on Foundations and other philanthropists to channel their resources into ventures such as the education of the girl-child which has direct bearing on sustainable development.

Two lead papers were presented at the conference; the first was by Professor M. Kabir Hassan (winner of the 2016 IDB Prize in Islamic Banking and Finance) and the second by Dr Muhammad Amjad Saqib (represented by Syed Hussain Haider, Project Director, Akhuwat Foundation, Pakistan). Delivering his paper titled “What is Islamic finance and what can it do?” Professor Muhammad Kabir Hassan, from the University of New Orleans, United States of America, explained that Islamic finance is a financial system which is founded based on moral principles backed by a set of legal rules (shari’ah) to guide the behavior of the economic agent with the sole objectives of achieving balance between market incentives which include the stakeholders’ value maximization and philanthropic motives by fulfilling social responsibilities.

He pointed out that Islamic Finance was built basically to promulgate economic development and social justice through the principle of risk and rewards. In other words, the parties that are involved in a transaction should be able to understand the overall philosophy of “no risk, no return” because Islamic Finance is an activity that is based on the premises that the needs of finance must be tightly integrated with real economic activities. In a nutshell, the renowned economist posited that Islamic financial system is a comprehensive system capable of serving the full spectrum of the society. He also noted that the social components of Islamic finance consisting of microfinance, zakkat, sadaqah, waqf and Qard hassan are capable of helping the underprivileged through various economic development activities with the ultimate objective of reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. In the same vein, he disclosed that Islamic finance is rooted in the divine law, which prohibits harmful transaction; promotes economic justice for all humanity; and encourages circulation of wealth, commoditization, asset- backed financing for real economic growth and risk sharing, which does not transfer risks to the borrower. This, he contends, is what makes it distinctive from the conventional financial system.

Professor Kabir further asserts that under Islamic finance both the borrower and lender operate on mutual respect for one another as they conduct business based on a win-win framework and with justice and equality unlike in the conventional financial system where it is conducted on “win-lose” framework that creates debt, risk transfer and unfair sharing of profit and loss.

Prof. Kabir Hassan pointed out the fact that Islamic finance is increasingly making impact in the global scene in both Muslim and non-Muslim nations. He mentioned that about eleven western countries have Islamic banks operating in their domain. This includes United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, France, German, Ireland Luxembourg, Russia and Cayman Island. Interestingly, he disclosed that UK and USA have about 22 and 10 Islamic Banks respectively fully operational; a figure which is much higher than many of the Muslim dominated countries. He also mentioned that in London there were about 42 sukuk issuances with a capital base of over $35million and in Luxembourg and Ireland they had 16 and 9 sukuk issuances with capital strength of $7.280 million and $4, 853million respectively.

In addition, the Treasury in UK introduced the financial services and market act 200Qs while in the
year 2012 the UK Government launched an Islamic Finance Task Force and in 2013 London hosted the World Islamic Economics Forum. In 2009 France allowed for the amendment of Article 111 of the French civil code relating to the formation of trusts, which was interpreted as an important step towards the issuance of sukuk in France, and in 2010, it revised the specific tax regulations of Islamic securities to remove discrepancies. Hong-Kong has raised $1 billion in Islamic Bonds and Luxembourg Tax Authority published a circular to clarify the tax treatment of murabahah and sukuk transactions, while in 2011 it clarified that no specific legislation is required for shari’ah complaint investment funds. Therefore, these and many more are pointers to the growing acceptability of the concept of Islamic finance across the world. Therefore, given its emphasis on risk-sharing model, linkages to real economic activities, partnership-based and equity-focused approaches occasioned by widened geographic reach and the rapid expansion of its global assets in Muslim and non-Muslim countries, Islamic finance can serve as a potent mechanism, yet untapped, to finance UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, in his address, told the gathering that the Bayero University’s IIIBF was the first University based Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance in the entire West African region and that its establishment was aimed at providing a formidable Institute that will take the lead in manpower training and academic research in the field of Islamic Finance. Represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Professor Sagir Adamu Abass, he noted that the timing of the conference was apt on many fronts. Firstly, it came at a time when Nigeria is in recession and development experts are busy formulating a workable blueprint for the bail-out as well as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. And secondly, that the theme of the conference which is on financial inclusion came at a more appropriate time, now that global focus is beamed at Islamic Finance as a reliable source of providing an alternative means of achieving the developmental agenda.

Professor Yahuza expressed delight that five years after its establishment, the University can now raise its shoulder high for a mission accomplished, saying, IIIBF has been recognized as one of the outstanding centres of research and publication and academic excellence the world over, which is evident by the global respect and partnership existing between it and other reputable scholars and organizations.

In his remarks, the Director General of Islamic Development Bank, who was represented by the Operations Portfolio Manager, Mr Mayoro Niang reiterated the commitment of the bank to partner with reputable organizations like the IIIBF in creating awareness and strengthening capacity for the realization of the objectives of the bank. He said IDB was set up principally to foster economic development and social progress of its member countries individually and collectively in accordance with the principles of Shari’ah.

Kano State Governor Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, who was represented by his Deputy Professor Hafiz Abubakar, reaffirmed his determination to partner with the university in developing and adopting the concept of Islamic financing project. He commended the IIIBF for its laudable feats within just few years of its existence, which he attributed to the innovative leadership of the Institute.

At the end of the conference, participants observed that Islam plays an increasing role in development process, which is based on equity and justice, and adds stronger moral and ethical codes to institutions in developing countries, where states and markets are often plagued by corruption. However, it regretted that despite large number of Muslim population in Africa, yet the continent is lagging behind in terms of adopting Islamic Finance. “The Islamic Finance industry in Africa is still at its infancy. In spite of its huge Muslim population, less than 10% of over 600 Islamic financial institutions worldwide operate in Africa.”

Some of the far-reaching recommendations of the conference included the need for patience by the populace, advising that being an emerging system, it may take some time for ‘the fruits’ to fully manifest. It also requires concerted efforts of all stakeholders to ensure that the institutions are properly managed and sustained, noting that the experience of the success of Islamic Finance in Malaysia has shown that although it is Islamic, the benefits can be enjoyed by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Another major highlight of the conference was the presentation of the first IIIBF-BUK Islamic Finance Leadership award to three distinguished personalities for their invaluable contributions to the development of Islamic Finance in Nigeria. The distinguished recipients were the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, the Chairman of Jaiz Bank, Alhaji Umar Mutallab and the Governor of Osun State Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola.

Lamara Garba is a Senior Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.
Since the end of the unfortunate civil war about four decades ago, successive Nigerian Governments and the nation’s political leadership at all levels have been conceptualizing policies and programmes aimed at fostering national cohesion and integration. Lamara Garba, sees the recent visits paid to the Palace of the Amanyanabo of Twon Brass and Chairman of the Bayelsa state Council of Chiefs, His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Papapereye Diete-Spiff and the Governor of Bayelsa state, Sir Henry Seriake Dickson by the management of Bayero University as another initiative towards building a more united Nigeria.

Another Handshake Across The Niger

Nigeria is currently implementing diverse strategies to contain pockets of communal violence and general state of insecurity. Hardly is there a part of the country that is totally immune from one form of insecurity challenge or another; these challenges have unfortunately redefined the notion of understanding and trust as the basis of peaceful coexistence among the citizens. As a consequence, despite over five decades of nationhood, at times some people in the country still harbour unfounded suspicion for individuals and groups across ethnic, religious and geographical leaning. Simple arguments between individuals from across faultlines are easily given ethnic and religious tint. At the end, Nigeria is poorer, as doubts based on insufficient understanding of one another are disseminated. Undoubtedly with such suspicions and stereotyping, the process of national integration is put into jeopardy.

Perhaps, concepts such as the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), the National Unity Colleges as well as use of federal character criteria in sharing appointment slots, jobs and educational opportunities, among others, were principally initiated with a view to fostering unity and understanding among the diverse and
heterogeneous population of the country. It was also part of the grand design to promote national integration that the federal Government came up with the idea of appointing Pro-Chancellors of federal tertiary institutions of education from different zones to superintend over a zone other than their places of abode.

In the light of the above, therefore, Bayero University, located in the ancient city of Kano's North-West Nigeria, as one of the federal institution of higher learning and a beneficiary of the national integration policy of the federal government, initiated what seems to be a bridge building project as part of the institution's orchestrated plan to further consolidate the laudable exemplary leadership qualities exhibited by the Chancellor of the institution; an icon in the promotion of peace and harmony, one of the most detribalized Nigerians, a quintessential leader, a great royal majesty of no mean repute and a gentleman of great sobriety and integrity in the person of his Royal Majesty, King Alfred Papapereye Diete-Spiff the Sereiyai II the Amanyanabo of Twon Brass. Apart from paying royal homage, the team also officially conveyed the approval of the Senate and the Governing Council's to host the 33rd Convocation ceremony, which will hold from 15th March to 18th 2017.

The team arrived Yenagoa on Wednesday, 18th January, 2017 and made straight to the palace of His Royal Majesty. Speaking at the palace, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration Professor Adamu Idris Tanko, who led the University management team on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, informed the Chancellor that management was at his palace to personally express their appreciation of his Royal Majesty and, by extension, of the people of Bayelsa state for their wonderful and unquantifiable support and fatherly disposition as well as to notify him on the many achievements recorded in the university, which were possible through his Majesty's intervention.

According to Professor Tanko, the Bayero University community was indeed lucky to have the calibre of King Alfred Papapereye Diete-Spiff as the University's Chancellor. “Your Royal Majesty sir, your appointment as the Chancellor of this great institution no doubt is a huge blessing, you are indeed an inspirational leader, a man of hope, vision and focus, and we remain indebted to you,” he stated, pointing out that his attitude and actions stand unique, which therefore, are manifested in the university's disposition as a centre of academic excellence, among its peers.
He noted that the warm reception accorded them right from arrival was an indication that there is still huge hope for Nigeria to overcome its cultural barrier and once more become a great nation where diversity and ethnic or geographical inclination will turned to be a great blessing to the citizens. “Your Royal Majesty, what we saw here in Bayelsa really inspired us, and without any hesitation, I can comfortably say that Nigeria is a blessed country with the likes of you in our midst”.

Responding, the Amayanabo of Twon Brass, King Alfred Papapereye Diete Spiff thanked the delegation for the visit and confirmed his readiness to attend the ceremony, explaining that he is always at the service of the University and that the management should always count on his support and understanding, adding that, as a father, he will always be at the services of the university.

After the palace speeches, His Royal Majesty led the BUK Management on a courtesy call to the Governor of Bayelsa State, Sir Henry Seriake Dickson at the Government House, Yenagoa. The Governor in turn he warmly welcomed the team and informed them of the State Government's decision to establish a new University to be called 'African University.'

The Governor said that education had been on the priority list of his administration, adding that the proposed University, which is expected to take-off in the first quarter of 2017, would be a world-class citadel that will take the lead in teaching, research and scholarship. To this end, Sir Dickson solicited that in view of the leadership role BUK had assumed among Nigerian Universities in knowledge dissemination and research exploits, the state government would like to establish a linkage to tap from the wealth of experience of BUK to grooming to maturity the state's new 'African University.' The joy and appreciation for the visit were visibly exhibited by the Governor, who said such inter regional and cultural visits would go along in further cementing and promoting harmonious coexistence among the diverse citizens of this great country and told the visitors that his door would always remain wide open for them, noting that, “we all belong to the same clime of promoting unity, understanding and cultural heritage”.

Earlier, at the Government House, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuzu Bello represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) Professor Adamu Idris Tanko, had told the governor that their mission of being at the state was to notify the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, of the 33rd Convocation Ceremony of the University. He also extended same invitation to the Governor to attend the graduation events. Professor Tanko assured the governor that BUK would be willing to work with the State Government to facilitate the smooth take-off of the new University.

Perhaps such visits will go a long way in creating the much needed inter-cultural affiliation which could serve as the basis of national cohesion and integration that will make feasible Nigeria's quest of becoming a great country, striving to bring about blissful and melodious cohabitation between the large, diverse and heterogeneous populace.

Lamara Garba is a Senior Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.
The pacesetter that Bayero University had become in the utilization of TETfund intervention funds was again demonstrated as another batch of completed projects were commissioned, as captured by Bala G. Abdullahi.

"BUK is not only the best but also exceptional in TETfund utilization. I feel very happy that BUK has properly utilized these intervention funds, for the appropriate projects with the required quality and at the right site." TETfund Executive Secretary, Dr. Abdullahi Bichi Baffa.

Bayero University, without mincing words, remains not only exceptional and the best, but also the pacesetter for other Nigerian Universities to follow, both in terms of accessing and judicious utilization of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETfund). BUK, also on its own initiated ground breaking infrastructural development programmes. These were the kind words that came from the Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Dr. Abdullahi Baffa Bichi, while commissioning six projects executed by the university through TETfund interventions.

This is not the first time Bayero University has received such an accolade from TETfund. Precisely on 10th October, 2015, the erstwhile Executive Secretary of the Fund, Professor Suleiman Bogoro had more kind words for BUK when he came to the university along with four State Governors to commission six projects spread across the Campuses of the university including those executed through TETfund intervention. He said 'I am highly impressed by the excellent execution and implementation of projects, by a university that is a Corporate Centre of Excellence.' BUK had justified their confidence by judiciously utilizing all available TETfund allocations. "We have seen and we have testified that BUK can compete favourably with any university in the world." Professor Bogoro concluded.

It is therefore, not surprising when Bogoro's successor, Dr. Abdullahi Baffa Bichi towed the same line when asked by journalists about his impression regarding the quality of work executed by BUK. He responded by, first of all, saying that all the projects executed belonged to the 2013/2014 normal TETfund intervention projects which, according to him, brought to closure BUK's utilization of the 2014 intervention funds. He added that, 'I must say that looking at the quality of works being commissioned today, I feel very good and glad that BUK has properly utilized these intervention funds, for the appropriate projects with the required quality and at the right sites.'

He said 'We have always argued that when you
go into a tertiary institution, whether as a student or a prospective student, or as a parent or prospective employee, you will want to see standard infrastructure, you will want to see super structure, you will want to see an environment that answers the name, tertiary institution. And this can only happen if we desist from constructing cubicles and substandard structures.' Dr. Baffa stated that 'these substandard structures were the same structures we often see when we were in primary schools. When we finished primary schools, we were told that we were progressing. We go to secondary schools we met the same structures. When we finished secondary schools we were going into tertiary institution we were told that we were making progress in our lives, and yet when we go into the tertiary institution, we still meet same environment with substandard structures,' Dr. Baffa lamented.

The TETFund Executive Secretary said that was why as a rule, 'every physical infrastructure that is going to be supported by TETFund, must be big, up to standard and beautiful. And in BUK, we have commissioned projects that are above standard and beautiful,' he remarked.

On what TETFund would do to reward BUK for being up to date in accessing and judicious utilization of TETFund intervention funds in order to encourage other universities to emulate BUK, Dr. Baffa said the fund was guided by its establishment acts, which said that all universities must be treated equally. He, however, said the only advantage an institution gets over another in TETFund intervention was its ability to account by way of judicious utilization and close a particular intervention year. This would enable such institution access the subsequent interventions. But apart from that, all universities must be treated equally. That is the law. 'In the words, whatever support we are going to give BUK will be the same support we are going to give other universities. But like I said, your capacity to utilize that support is what makes the difference,' he explained. Dr. Baffa said from records available and based on what 'we saw on ground, BUK has displayed sufficient capacity to be able to access and utilize these intervention funds.'

The TETFund boss observed with sadness that there are some beneficiary institutions whose 2010 intervention funds are yet to be accessed. 'But here, we are talking about an institution that is closing 2014 intervention and commencing to utilize 2015 intervention. I think this is a highly commendable progress,' he stated.

The commissioning train first berthed at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH), at about 10:00am. There, two very important projects were commissioned; Centre for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR) and Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Training (CAMRAT). The two centres were constructed courtesy of TETFund intervention. They are to serve as research centres as well as for purpose of training medical students. Before leaving the teaching hospital to the university's New Campus for the commissioning of the remaining four projects, the convoy which included the Executive Secretary of TETFund and his management team, the Vice Chancellor and other principal officers of the university paid a courtesy call on the Chief Medical Director of the AKTH, Professor Aminu Zakari Mohammed.

Speaking at the conference Room of the Hospital, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello harped on the importance of harmonious working relationship, which, he said, had been the secret that bond the hospital and the university. He said this mutual and cordial relationship had been benefiting both institutions and that was why the management of BUK felt at ease to construct and site the two all important centres at the Teaching Hospital. The Vice Chancellor thanked the AKTH CMD and assured
him that the management of the university would do everything humanly possible to sustain and cement the relationship.

Responding, the AKTH Chief Medical Director, Professor Zakari Mohammed thanked the Vice Chancellor and the Executive Secretary of TETFund for the visit, saying that the visit had gone a long way to show the existence of a harmonious working relationship between the BUK management and the management of the hospital. He used the opportunity to congratulate the TETFund Executive Secretary and described his appointment as well deserved.

The convoy left the AKTH at about 11:30am and moved straight to the Faculty of Education at the New Campus where the TETFund Executive Secretary commissioned a multi-million naira 30-block office structure. From the Faculty of Education, the commissioning train was at the Faculty of Law, where two projects were commissioned. The faculty's new library complex equipped with modern facilities and a moot court. The last point of call was the Department of Physical and Health Education, where a Gymnasium for the training of undergraduate students was commissioned.

Impressed by the success story of BUK, journalists covering the event had asked the Vice Chancellor: what were the secrets behind the execution and quality of the projects? Responding, the Vice Chancellor explained that 'one of the secrets behind our success was planning. In BUK, we always plan. We consider TETFund as an intervention agency set up by law. It is supposed to complement funds from other sources. In particular, the proprietor of any university is supposed to fund physical structures of that university. For federal universities, federal government is to fund our physical development. So, also for state institutions, but TETFund is supposed to intervene to fill the gap where the proprietor is not able to provide for that. So, in BUK we always plan ahead, try to see what are we supposed to do with the anticipated funds. Even before TETFund intervention comes, we already know what to do with the funds. We have plans already on the ground for the utilization of the 2015 intervention. These are the reasons why BUK is up-to-date in TETFund intervention,' he remarked.

Professor Bello stated that BUK had since accessed and utilized all its TETFund funds allocation up to 2014. According to TETFund guidelines, an institution cannot access its funds until it fully accounted by way of judicious utilization of the previous year's allocation. 'This is the only criterion that will qualify an institution to access next year's allocation. Since in BUK, we have accessed and utilized our TETFund allocation up to 2014, we are expected to access the 2015 allocation. Already we have plans on ground and based on our plans, we will be able to combine 2015/2016 allocation simultaneously,' he assured.

Other reasons for BUK's success story were that, 'we believe in working as a team. Everybody, from the four unions - ASUU, SSANU, NAAT and NASU to the Management always had a say in the administration of the university. We will continue to do that,' he assured.

Bala G. Abdullahi is a Senior Assistant Registrar, Directorate of Public Affairs
Introduction
The setting up of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT) by the Management of Bayero University, Kano had been a great achievement that lifted the status of the University in the academia. This initiative enabled the University to become among the few Universities in the country that created another window through the setting up a Faculty to impart skills to the teeming youths, especially at this era, when people are encouraged to become self reliant. Moreso, it is globally acknowledged that higher institutions, especially Universities worldwide, are known to have strategically provided impetus to building the capacity of the youths for them to become self reliant and to complement the effort of various governments in the creation of job opportunities. No doubt, the mission of the Faculty is to be a leading Centre of Excellence in the training and provision of top-of-the-rank information technology professionals and industry leaders.

In line with this, this article intends to provide an overview of the Faculty, which has over the last few years, ensured versatility on training in Computing, Information Technology Applications and Software Development. There is a vast number of youths all over the world taking advantage of the opportunities provided by these diverse fields, realising the fact that no country can afford to isolate itself by allowing its citizens not to be adequately trained in the Computer Technologies.

Specifically, Bayero University’s Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology is very much unique. It has three Departments’ of Computer Science, Information Technology (IT) and Software Engineering. The Faculty possesses young and brilliant academics, whose potentials are well acknowledged in the circles of academics. It has symbiotically mounted both undergraduate and postgraduate courses with students coming from far and near.

Brief History of the Faculty
The Faculty originated from the Department of Mathematical Sciences, from which the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology sprang. The University’s old BSc Computer Science was then transferred to join the Faculty. In fact, the Faculty was initially approved by the Senate and
Council of the University in 2012/2013 academic session, with three Departments: Computer Science, Information Technology and Software Engineering. The Faculty is housing these Departments in its giant and modern building; built by a Nigerian philanthropist, General T. Y. Danjuma and in the annex building, built as a TETFund intervention project.

The T.Y. Danjuma building has a total of 52 staff offices, lecture rooms, laboratories, classes and conference rooms. The Faculty has 8 lecture rooms, 2 theatres, simulation laboratory, mobile laboratory, e-learning laboratory-1, e-Learning laboratory-2, theatre A, Nura Imam Laboratory and NDIC laboratory.

As far as the environment is concerned, the Faculty has one of the most beautiful landscaped areas in the University. The areas are covered by flowers and landscaping. This includes the inner and outer parts of T.Y. Danjuma building, the inner and outer parts of Faculty annex building, the E-Learning Centre and the Faculty Mosque.

Programmes
The Faculty, three Departments are running the following programmes: in the Department of Computer Science; PhD Computer Science, MSc Computer Science; Postgraduate Diploma Computer Science (PGDCS) and BSc Computer Science. In the Department of Information Technology: Masters in Information and Communication Technology (MICT) was mounted. Also, there were programmes designed to start soon. They are as follows: In the Department of Information Technology, BSc Information Technology and in the Department of Software Engineering, BSc Computer Science (Software Engineering). The Faculty also has a number of additional programmes across the three Departments awaiting approval of the University Management and the Senate.

Staffing and Manpower Development
Faculty has talented staff across the three departments. There are about 48 academic staff. Department of Computer Science, which has more programmes, has 29 academic staff; Department of Information technology has 9 staff and Department of Software Engineering has 10 academic staff.

It is interesting to learn that about 15 staff members are currently undergoing PhD programmes in different counties; some in UK, Malaysia and other parts of the world. Many of them will return this year. Also, the Faculty intends to mount additional programmes in the next few years. The additional programmes are awaiting approval. The University devoted enormous resources to build the capacity of the teaming academics.

There are talented academics that ensure students graduate with good grades. For instance, out of the 129 graduating students of Department of Computer Science in the 2015/2016 academic session, 11 graduated with First Class Honours, 56 with Upper Second Class Honours and 54 with Lower Second Class Honours. Only 7 students graduated with Third Class Honours and one with a Pass Degree.

The Faculty has also encouraged conference attendance, seminars and other forms of training both at local and overseas levels. All programmes in the departments have been harmonised in order to meet standards. It is worth saying that out of the 57 graduating students with first class degree honours, 11 came from the Faculty and the overall best graduating student is also from the Faculty.

Students Statistics
It is worth mentioning that during the current academic session, a total of 722 candidates sat for PUTME and out of the number, 446 scored the minimum of 160 marks and above. From the figure, 275 candidates were admitted to the BSc Computer Science programme. Also, for the Direct Entry, we recorded 325 applicants, out of which 67 were admitted; giving the total number of the newly admitted students to 342 during the 2016/2017 academic session. The Faculty will soon conclude work on the authenticated data and statistics of the new students during the year under review.
However, during 2015/2016 academic session, a total of 1133 undergraduate students registered for the session across the levels. The breakdown is as follows: 5 registered for spill over II, 23 for spill over I, 223 registered for Level IV, 277 registered for Level III, 307 registered for Level II while 298 candidates registered for Level I.

The Faculty, to date, has a total of 1475 students, putting together the newly admitted students and the returning students. Also, 41 students registered for M.Sc. Computer Science and 47 registered for Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science. The Faculty has also commenced the Senate’s approved Masters in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) this current 2016/2017 academic session. The Senate has equally approved PhD programme in Computer Science.

The Faculty considered as one of the youngest but the most resourceful, has talented academics, whose contributions to learning and scholarly activities are very much acknowledged not only within the arena of the Nigerian Universities but in the global academia. Apart from having many of its teaching staff undergoing PhDs, the faculty possesses good record of seminar and conference attendance as well the publication of journal articles both at the local and international journals.

Some Outstanding Packages in Computing

Various computer packages had become indispensable in running organisations and offering services worldwide. It is pertinent that even in the administration of private and public organisations worldwide; you can't do without the computer. Computer, Computing and the ICT tools such as data storage devices, central processing units etc have been of immense importance to the administration of organisations. Looking at the evolution of computers from the analogue computer, which uses direct mechanical or electrical model as a basis for computing to the ENIAC, considered as the first general purpose electronic computer; there has been tremendous development and efficiency in the service delivery and easy dispensation of jobs to the satisfaction of customers. The Use of ICT in administration enables efficient service delivery through the use of ICT technologies such as sensitive technologies, communication technologies, display technologies, analysis technologies and storage technologies. Scholars at various levels have done a lot to showcase the importance of the ICT applications in administration and tools for effective service delivery, which include executive support system, decision support system, office automation, web portal and on-line services.

Students who graduate from the Faculty need not to rely solemnly on government jobs, they can work anywhere and especially at ICT hubs. Take, for instance, the services rendered by the Centre for Information Technology, Bayero University, which include providing computing, managing websites, maintenance of internet services, maintenance of ICT infrastructure, development and promotion of software and applications, cutting edge researches etc. One can categorically conclude that administrators at all levels must invest in ICT and adopt electronic and telecommunication networks for effective service delivery.

The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Abdulwahab Lawan, confessed that the Faculty has the upper hand for being one of the few Faculties of Computing in the Nigerian Universities. In the near future, he said, the Faculty would mount many specialised programmes especially at Postgraduate level. At the moment, the Faculty has MSc in Computer Science, PhD in Computer Science, Masters in Information and Communication Technology (MICT) and Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science (PGDCS). This is apart from the BSc Computer Science being run in the Faculty. He said, presently, there were plans to further develop the capacity of the staff apart from the 15 pursuing their PhDs in UK, Malaysia and other countries. There is no doubt that graduands from the Faculty compete globally with other competent hands, who graduate from the best rated universities all over the world.

According to him, the Faculty is also preparing for collaborations with universities outside the country, especially Universities in Malaysia. There were also plans for additional affiliations with some local institutions.

According to the Dean, the Faculty, right from its inception, is up and doing because it can't afford to compromise the quality of its degrees and all its products. The lecturers, too, have the best degrees from British, Malaysian and other top ranking universities. In the next few years, the Faculty will possess a lot of senior academics to pave way for many programmes. The plans to commence undergraduate in Information Technology and Software Engineering has also reached an advanced stage.

The Faculty, the Dean said, emphasizes on both theoretical and practical knowledge to be able to produce the best candidates that can stand on their own and be employed by the services of many people. It is an empire that entrepreneurial makes youths capable of adding potentials to the nation's economy, he added.
In fact, part of the projections of the Faculty is to explore the adoption of available ICT related media of teaching and learning such as using Edmodo to the fullest. A Committee has been set up to work towards achieving the set goals. It also plans to mount new undergraduate programmes like Mobile Computing, Computer Studies, Information System, Cyber Security and Multi Media Computing. It sets to provide specialised laboratories such as Software Testing Laboratory, Internetworks Laboratory, Graphics and Multi Media Laboratory etc.

The Deputy Dean of the Faculty, Malama Saratu Yusuf Ilu has this to tell about legacies that can be exploited from the Faculty as follows:

Students who graduated from the Faculty, she said, can develop jobs on their own; having been taught software system analysis, computer development analysis, network system administration, database administration, web development etc. They can be computer programmers; they can also employ others to help them in developing programmes, amongst numerous skills.

Talking about the economic gains, she said, these are monumental benefits because right now some graduands from the Faculty have established computer schools, they are doing very well; they get jobs like software development from other companies. They earn far above what somebody earns in the public service.

According to the Deputy Dean, the Faculty has enough facilities. The computer laboratories have enough computer systems and in every computer, software applications were installed and internet facilities are being used to academically give the best training to students. It is envisaged that in 2 to 3 years, there is going to be a mature Faculty with a lot of investments on ground.

She explained that the Faculty has developed numerous software applications that can checkmate abnormalities. There is the one that helps to curtail students’ misconduct; it ensures seat allocation during examinations; it also assists staff to know their classes of invigilation. Also, in the Faculty, software has been developed to ensure students register online. The Faculty has developed a software that detects plagiarism. Any student trying to use someone’s work, the software will not accept his topic because the Faculty wants something new. Also, as for lecture attendance, there is a software that tells the time a lecturer reports to the class. There are a lot of softwares developed; some of them are being used in the Faculty and other Faculties in the University. She added that the Faculty is coming to lead in the University because by the time the lecturers undergoing PhDs come back they will come with different experiences from UK and other parts of the world.

Saudat Yunusa Sulaiman, a final year student from Kano state, said her ambition is to open a business centre, to use various applications and perform wonderful jobs, train youths and give employment to many people. She explained that “the fact that we were very good in Microsoft, Excel, PowerPoint, CorelDraw etc is enough to becoming self reliant at this period when the world revolves around computer technologies.”

Yasir Muhammad, a final year student from Zamfara state has concluded plans to become a businessman. Presently, he said, government encourages students to become self-reliant, and as such, farming, especially the irrigation farming has been his target. He plans to develop software that would help him to operate a package that pays workers’ salaries. This is the kind of software that assists in managing micro-finance banking. It automates the manual system that gives room for misconducts. Some banks and other business operators, he lamented face difficulties, using manual system in paying salaries.

He has also developed interest in running a business centre, especially in his area, lacking such facility. He believed that people from his area, Anka, had to travel to urban centres to patronise computer services. He has the ambition to train youths in the area in computing so as to become self-reliant. He said that he learned a lot about programming, ethics and morality, networking and other numerous applications. He can work in any organisation be it Primary Healthcare, School administration, engineering firm etc. “There are a lot of advantages being in the Faculty,” he disclosed.

Conclusion
It will not go out of point to conclude that the Faculty has the upper hand amongst other Faculties in the University. The Faculty was so dynamic and fast growing; being the only ICT Faculty, its presence is being felt by other Faculties in the University. Above all, the best prizes awards for the best students at all levels which the Faculty initiated have enabled students to raise their academic performances tremendously in an effort to be counted among the excelling ones. It is also acknowledged that the vast opportunities in the Faculty are so magnificent considering the current global trend of becoming self reliant; that is to say that those graduating from the Faculty apart from becoming self reliant economically, they also open doors towards provision of multiple jobs to other teeming youths.

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CSOs and Religious Leaders Join Forces To Combat Corruption

Who better than the research centre dedicated to upholding the ideals, as well as honest and selfless leadership of the late champion of the talakawa (commoners), Malam Animu kano, to bring together the two natural allies, Religious Leaders and Civil Society Organization (CSOs), to synergize and sustain the Buhari led federal government fight against corruption? Mustafa Ibrahim shares the insights from the fusion of the two forces, which would be of interest to all stakeholders.

It is accepted across all faith communities that, hard as it maybe, resisting the various manifestations and temptations of corruption, has its moral and spiritual reward for the individuals involved and the society. However, sometimes there might be an immediate material reward for such honesty too. This was illustrated by a story narrated at a workshop, jointly organized by the Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training (AKCDRT) Mambayya and the Embassy of the United States of America, on Tuesday, 31st January, 2017, at the Sa’adu Zungur Auditorium, within the centre, at Gwammaja.

In his welcome remark the Director Mambayya, Prof. Haruna Wakili on behalf of Mambayya and the US Embassy co-sponsors, recalled how in July 2016 the embassy reached out to the centre as partners, to replicate for the Northern States, a corruption sensitization workshop for religious leaders done in the Southern States. After that 18th October 2016 workshop on Role of Religious leaders in Combating Corruption, Mambayya reported back to the Embassy that out of the N6m (USD 20,000) given for the successful activity, only half was expended. Being Mambayya House established by Prof. Attahiru Jega and his lieutenants, they returned the balance to the surprise of the Embassy, which encouraged them to use the balance to continue on the same theme. This act was untypical of Nigerian organisations in their dealings with such foreign partners. Thus the genesis of bringing together the two natural partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Religious Leaders, to develop synergy in support of the FG fight against corruption. The resulting workshop of 31st January, 2017, had the theme The Role of Leaders of Civil Society Organizations in Combating Corruption in Nigeria.

The workshop attracted attendance from leaders of 19 selected CSOs who are engaged in anti-corruption-related activities in the 19 states of Northern Nigeria. The CSOs with varying degrees of interests from economic empowerment to budget monitoring, are part of civic institutions that are more prominent and visible on issues that affect the grassroots. The organisations are separate from the state and yet responsive to it; as they checkmate and influence the state through different modes of collective actions, ranging from adversarial to persuasive means, in order to assert the shared values of their communities or members. A total of six presentations were made.

Dr. Moses Aluigbe, a research fellow of Mambayya was the first to speak on the anti-corruption campaign of the AKCDRT itself, within the region and nationally. These included over the years seminars, symposia, workshops, roundtables and publications around the themes of good governance, democratic participation, accountable governance, violence free political culture and campaigns against social vices such as drug-abuse and violence against women and children. He explained that Mambayya House has institutionalized the culture of transparency and anti-corruption through external auditing of its accounts and publication of its Annual Reports. He concluded, that “the Centre’s perception of corruption is not restricted to financial corruption; bribery, money laundering, fraud, etc. but that it is multi-dimensional and includes other forms of corruption e.g. political corruption, misuse or abuse of trust/power for private gains.”

The second speaker, Professor Dahiru Yahya, being the quintessential scholar from the Department of History, Bayero University, Kano, noted that the fight against corruption started 200 years ago, from the era of Shaykh Usman Ibn Fodio. He said the fight had seen corruption defined first as fasadi (evil and
destructive to society) in the pre-colonial era, to becoming ‘Ko Oho’ (“I don't care”/tolerated) in the colonial era and currently to ‘Alheri’. (national cake/ “incentive”) in the post-independence era.

The founding father of the Sokoto Caliphate, Usman Ibn Fodio was quoted by Prof. Yahaya saying anything that negatively affect the security of life and fundamental human rights of citizens is corruption, adding that even leaving women at home and denying them education is corruption. Thus, corruption is virtually anything that is contrary to due process and transcends economic sphere to touch on social, political and other aspects of life in the state. Unfortunately with the coming of the colonial masters, the war against corruption was watered down to “treasury looting” alone.

Prof. Yahya stated further that, although General Murtala was very vehement in the fight against corruption, his war was “killed” by changing its nomenclature to ‘Alheri’ (“incentive” in Hausa language) by the Babangida's administration. During Babangida's military regime corruption was deodorized and glamorized, “legitimized” and became culturally “acceptable”. Prof. Yahya said most governments that come to power claim they are going to fight corruption but just want to get the support of citizen only to wallow in corruption once in power.

The University Don took a historic view of the many violent episodes in the life of the nation and interpreted them to be manifestations of one aspect or the other of the fight against corruption, such as the fight by the Maitasine and his group, the cultural clashes following the restoration of the Shariah in some Northern states and even the traumatic fight against boko haram. He said these dissident movements and many more not so violent were waging their struggles against the pains inflicted on society by corruption.

In conclusion Prof. Dahiru Yahaya called for Nigerians' total support for the fight against corruption, as every Nigerian has a stake in its success; adding that government alone cannot win the fight against corruption, thus, the fight should be a collective effort of government officials, politicians, religious and traditional leaders, civil societies and individuals members of the society. The historian therefore tasked the participants as the leaders of various CSOs from the 19 northern states to come up with new initiatives to fight corruption in Nigeria. He was optimistic that the war against corruption will succeed through the collective efforts of all, adding that we can fight corruption not by force but by persuasion.

The third presentation was by a Lagos based Civil Society Organisation – BudgIT, whose Projects Manager, Mr. Abayomi A. Akinbe, spoke on the role of CSOs in using online tools to enlighten the private citizens to demand for accountability from government officials in a presentation titled Strategies for Combating Corruption: The BudgIT Approach. Mr. Akinbe introduced BudgIT as dedicated to enlightening Nigerians about how governments' budgets are processed and implemented. Their website (www.yourbudgetit.com) provides a digest of federal and some states budgets.

He explained that BudgIT is an organisation that uses information technology to increase citizen awareness around public finance, stimulate conversations on the use of public funds, both online and offline and create information and spread it across every literacy circle. For instance, the website (www.traka.ng) gives information about and allows for tracking federal constituency projects; and to empower citizens to contact their elected federal legislators. Another website (www.shineyoureyes.org) provides contact details for each of the federal legislators. Citizens could also get insight into the procurement process of particular projects of their concern from yet another site (www.budeshi.org) and to take advantage of the Freedom of Information Act, they could get sample letters from another website (www.fivault.com) to send to their elected representatives or government departments, to demand for why monies appropriated for their local projects have not been translated into actual projects. After the presentation virtually all the participants were unanimous that BudgIT's presentation alone has equipped them with all it takes to fight corruption in the 19 Northern states of Nigeria.

The afternoon sessions had the fourth and fifth presentations from two religious leaders who happened to be the co-chairs of the newly formed religious platform for the fight against corruption in the northern states. The presenters, Dr. Bashir Aliyu Umar, the Chief Imam of Al-Furqan Juma’at Mosque, Nassarawa GRA, Kano; who is also Director of BUK’s Centre for Islamic Civilization and Inter-religious Dialogue (CICID) and Rt. Rev. (Dr.) John Namaza Niyiring OSA, the Catholic Bishop of Kano Diocese. Both said the two religions of Islam and Christianity condemned the act of corruption in the strongest possible terms.

Reflecting on the understanding and strategies for combating corruption from the Christian perspective, the Bishop structured his presentation around four areas: Corruption as Moral Evil rooted in original Sin; Some forms of Corruption in the Bible; Democratic System and Political Corruption and Christian Perspective for combating Corruption. The presenter stated that the consequences of original sin put all mankind in a sinful condition, with corruption as one. To him corruption, which may be described as dishonest, illegal or immoral behavior has its roots deep in man's sinful condition. The Bishop further highlighted some forms of corruption as stated in the Bible. To him political corruption betrays moral
principles and norms of social justice, and compromises the proper functioning of the state. For the Christians, the presenter suggests that combating corruption require strategies that must above all have their sources in sacred scripture, Christ-like faith, moral life and prayer.

Dr. Bashir Aliyu Umar highlighted the Islamic perspective on the fight against corruption. He said the fundamental objective of Islam is to guide human life, and corruption predated Islam. To him the Arabic term for corruption, ُفساد - which means 'changing the good to bad', says it all. According to the presenter the fundamental objective of Islam is to bring about good and benefit and maximize it, in this world and to eradicate evil and harm or minimize it. As a result of this it has set high standards of ethics, morals, values and norms of behavior, as well as systems regulating human endeavors in all aspects of life on this planet, to guarantee the attainment and fulfillment of its fundamental objective. He emphasized that corruption is one of the evils scourging human life on this planet, as such its eradication and minimization falls under the fundamental objective of Islam. Having discussed political, administrative, economic, social and environmental forms of corruption, he suggested that fighting corruption should start at the personal level, setting examples and creating institutions such as the law, the Ulama and others like Hisbah, Public Complaints commission, public challenge of those who do wrong and holding public officers accountable.

The sixth presentation The Role of CSOs in Combating Corruption in Nigeria, was by Malam Yunusa Zakari Ya’u, the Executive Director, CITAD, Kano. He lamented that corruption in Nigeria is extensive and endemic as it has engendered a peculiar psychosis in which the public space seems to have internalized corruption such that not engaging in corruption would seem to be an aberration. As such the phenomenon requires much more than laws and law enforcement to ensure that corruption is successfully fought and rooted out of the society. His insights peppered with real life examples and honed over decades of CSO engagements, first looked at Facilitating the Public Sphere's Engagement with Combating Corruption, where he cited methods and tools of fighting corruption to include whistle blowing, public sensitization, advocacy and public mobilization. From the angle of The Tracking and Monitoring Engagements, he suggested use of public expenditure and budget tracking, monitoring of public procurement process and auditing the implementation of transparency laws. And to overcome the powerlessness of the majority weak who stand to benefit most from change and the inertia in society against change, he suggested Agenda Setting by the Civil Society, under which the CSOs should set the agenda by articulating new issues and ways of combating corruption. Through reform advocacy and campaign to shun corrupt people and organisations. In conclusion he suggested CSOs adopt the following tactics to make their work sustainable and impactful: embedding the work of CSOs in the communities, empowering citizens to expose corruption, deploying ICTs, innovation to keep up with evolution of corruption and purposeful information dissemination.

In the late afternoon and final session, the participants engaged in far-reaching deliberations on how they can work together to fight the menace of corruption in the 19 northern states. After extensive deliberations the participants resolved to form a strong network of the all the 19 invited CSOs to work together to fight corruption holistically in the 19 northern states and Nigeria at large. The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), under the leadership of Malam YZ Ya’u was appointed to facilitate the establishment of the forum and to serve as the leading CSO for the 19 selected CSOs. Finally, each participant was called on to briefly present some anti-corruption related activities their CSOs conducted or participated in the recent past and inform the gathering about their plans for the year 2017 as regards to combatting corruption in their various states. And what an interesting mix of innovative and inspiring stories they told, much to the joy and delight of all those present.

At the end of the day it was clear that there is hunger in the land for this fight against corruption and the sooner CSOs draw in the masses and other stakeholders the better for the success of the Buhari administration's mission in this fight. The government on its part must come up with strategies to tap this latent support.

Mustafa Ibrahim is a Principal Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.
Reminiscence of UMC Retreat 2016
29th December, 2016 to 2nd January, 2017

(From right), Malam Ado Maitama, Ag. Bursar; Prof. I. Diso, then outgoing Librarian; Prof. I. A. Tanko, DVC Admin; Prof. M. Y. Bello, VC; Prof. Sagir Abbas, DVC Academics and Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed, Registrar, listen to a presentation

Cross section of UMC members at the Retreat during one of the presentation sessions

Some female members of the UMC at the Retreat, (from left), Prof. Aisha Isma’ila, Prof. Binta Tijjani Jibrin, and Hajiya Amina Umar Abdullahi, Deputy Registrar, DEAR

VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello (1st right), speaking at the Retreat, while DVC Academics, Prof. Sagir Abbas and Registrar, Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed (2nd and 3rd from right) listen

(From left), Prof. H. Wakili, Director Mambayya; M. Danagundi, Director Security and Prof. S. B. Ahmad, outgoing Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies

The Rappoteur team at the Retreat: (From left), Prof. Habu Fagge, leader; Mustafa Ibrahim, Mustapha M. Gide and Bala G. Abdullahi, members
Commissioning TETFund Intervention Projects in BUK
6th February, 2017

VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello inviting the TETFund Executive Secretary to commission the project, as Prof. Sani Alhassan Provost CHS looks on (1st right)

TETFund Executive Secretary, Dr. A. B. Baffa speaking, while the VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello, listens

Executive Secretary, TETFund, Dr. A. B. Baffa (centre) cutting the tap to commission one of the project, while the VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello (1st right) assist

The VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello explaining a point, while TETFund ES watches

A cross section of BUK and TETFund team at the AKTH conference room when the later paid a courtesy call on the AKTH CMD

TETFund Executive Secretary, A. B. Baffa signing the visitors book
2016/2017
Matriculation Ceremony
24th February, 2017

Members of BUK Senate in a group photograph

VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello addressing the matriculating students

The Registrar, Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed in a tet-a-tet with the DVC Academics, Prof. Sagir Abbas

Cross section of the matriculating students

Matriculating students reciting oaths

Principal Officers singing the National Anthem
BUK’s 50th Congregation Meeting
25th February, 2017

VC, Prof. M. Y. Bello addressing members of the Congregation

Members of the Congregation listen to the Vice Chancellor’s address

Cross section of Congregation members

DVC Academics, Prof. Sagir Abbas (2nd from left), sharing a point with Dean, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, Prof. Ibrahim Yakasai

The Registrar, Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed explaining a point to the VC, Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello

Members of Congregation voting during election of congregation representatives to Senate and Council
Bayero Microfinance Bank Ltd became operational in September, 2014. It was established to meet the needs of the Bayero University community in the 21st Century. Given the nature of the community and the diverse needs of its members as well as its sophistication many different financial services are needed if it has to appeal to the large potential customer base. Thus while they are micro in size and by statutory regulations they necessarily need to be “efficient, focused and competitive.”

The University is home to about 10 Deposit Money Banks which maintain branches on either the New or Old Campus. In fact, more have started operation on other satellite campus locations, within each struggling to increase their market share. Amidst this scenario the Bank was born to provide alternative banking especially for the small entrepreneurs, students, staff, contractors and other members of the immediate community residing around our campuses. It’s expected to also serve as the local, immediate service provider for on-lending activities of Development Finance Institutions including the Federal Mortgage Bank, Bank of Agriculture and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The Manager Director of the Bank Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Makarfi when contacted by BUK Today magazine on the journey so far, as the bank spent more than two years in operation, the bank is doing well considering the fact that most of the Microfinance banks in the country are closing because of one problem or the other. But BUK Microfinance is growing gradually. At this point according to him, a very big thank you most go to the members of Bayero University Management, Board of Directors of the Bank, staff of the bank, staff and Students of Bayero University Kano, for the support and cooperation given to the bank which is the secret behind the success recorded in two years, by the bank.

Dr. Ahmad Makarfi said apart from this successful two years of operation another important achievement worth mentioning is the ability of the bank to employ its own staff. “I can proudly say that today, more than 70% of our staff are employed by the Bank not the University. Even though it is Central Bank policy to have our own staff but to us to do that within this very short period of time is a
great achievement” the Managing Director added. A customer of the bank, as he said like in any other bank can operate any of two major types of accounts, that is CURRENT and SAVINGS. To open a Current Account one must have one thousand naira as opening balance with no limits to the number of withdrawals in a month. In this account one can make a transfer to another account or different banks and banks cheques would be issued to the customer. ATM card and SMS alert on account will also be part of the benefit that one may derive from operating such an account. While the Saving account can also be opened it with opening balance of one thousand naira according to the Manager Director and no references are required. It also gives an interest of 2% monthly. SMS alert and ATM would be part of the others benefits.

A part from these, he said the bank in its effort to serve its customers has introduced new products that would assists the customers in their day to day financial activities. One of these new products according to him is the Savings for Schools (Primary, Secondary, Undergraduate and post-Graduate). Dr Makarfi said to open such accounts one is expected to come with five thousand naira which is called an account opening balance and no reference required to open this kind of account. At any level, according to Manager Director, if a person has a financial problem that makes him or her unable to pay for his or his children registration fee the bank would help him and pay for him on loan bases which is to repaid within two to three months. What is needed most from the person is to have an account with the bank. According to him a student that open an account with them would have it easy paying for registration fees direct to University account using a mobile application.

“Under these new products the bank has introduced Kiddies Account where the account is opened in the child’s name and operated by the parent/ guardian which would automatic transition to savings account when the child reaches the age of 18,” Dr Makarfi said. He further stated that other products to be enjoined by the bank customer are non-interest banking services (NIBS), term deposit (TD), contract saving, scheme fund, house hold acquisition loan and so many others. He said for any Bayero University staff that want have 50% of his salary and to be deducted from the source should also contact the bank for more information and access to this and other packages.

Dr. Muhammad Makarfi give the customers and prospect customers the glad tidings that before end of March this year the ATM card of the bank would become operational. He said all the problems that were obstacles are about to be overcomed by the bank. To make the bank easily accessible to its customer a cash office of the bank may be opened in the Old Campus of the University. “During last registration exercise we operate something like cash office in the old campus and its successes informed our think that we can have a cash office where our customer can deposit and withdraw their money easily”, he added.

The Manager Director BUK Microfinance Bank said with all the achievements the bank recorded in almost two and the half year there are some challenges that the bank is facing like Increase Share capital from Unit Microfinance Bank to State Microfinance Bank of ₦100million share capital to avoid Single Obligator Limit of ₦200,000.00 and ₦1million for Individual and corporate respectively. “Capital Adequacy ratio of 40% as required by law is too small to give out as loan with our N20 million share capital of which only N8million can be lent out to our teeming clients,” He adding that the bank is working hard to overcome these problems to ensure that they serve their customers as expected. Abubakar Yusuf is a Senior Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.
Bayebo University will be agog as from 15th March, 2017 as a total of 8,634 graduands will be awarded with Degrees and Higher Degrees at the 33rd Convocation Ceremonies. The ceremonies are unique as the University is set to confer Honorary Doctoral Degrees (Honoris Causa) on a prominent Islamic Scholar, Shiekh Khalifa Isyaka Rabi’u and an entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mr. Man Loong Lee, Nura Garba previews the excitement to come.

Bayebo University is set for its 33rd Convocation Ceremony for the award of Degrees and Higher Degrees, as well as the conferment of Honorary Degrees.

Since 2015 when the University introduced the staggered type of Convocation, the ceremony has been popular with graduands, parents, friends and relatives of the graduands for the opportunity given to celebrate extensively.

‘You may wish to recall that in the last two years the convocation ceremony was staggered to hold over a period of days, instead of the usual practice where the ceremony held for only one day. The idea behind that innovation was to give opportunities to the graduating students to celebrate their achievements with their teachers, parents, guardians and other well-wishers in a relaxed atmosphere. The occasion is for them, and they should be given adequate time to be recognized and celebrated. Staggering it, whereby some days are dedicated to first degree graduands, was aimed at making the celebrants the focal point of the ceremony. This is a global practice’, the Vice Chancellor told a pre-convocation press conference.

The 33rd Convocation Ceremony is expected to be one of the memorable ceremonies in the history of the university as two eminent personalities would be conferred with honorary Doctoral Degrees (honoris causa); Khalifa Sheikh Isyaka Rabi’u and Mr. Man Loong Lee.

According to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, Sheikh Isyaka Rabi’u will be honoured for his scholarship in Qur’anic sciences and for his philanthropy, while Mr Lee’s conferment followed his capacity to serve as a major employer of labour in the northwest geopolitical zone. ’He is being honoured for his industriousness, job creation and contributions to the Nigerian economy,” the VC explained.

The Convocation ceremony will commence on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017 with Faculties of Agriculture, Computer Science and Information Technology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Education, Science, Allied Health Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences and Clinical Sciences, as well as Dentistry.

On Thursday, 16th March, 2017, the Convocation Ceremony has been set aside for graduands from Faculties of Arts and Islamic Studies, Engineering, Law, Social and Management Sciences as well as the School of Continuing Education.

The third day, Friday, 17th March, 2017 has been earmarked for Convocation Lecture to be delivered by Professor Akpan Hogan Ekpo, Director General, West African Institute of Financial and Economic Management, Lagos under the chairmanship of Malam Ahmed Joda. The title of the lecture is ’The Nigerian Economy-Recession and Beyond.”

A total of 8,634 graduands will be awarded various Degrees and postgraduate Diplomas. According to the breakdown, 5,511 will receive first degree; 63 will receive PhD; 1885 will receive master's degree and 1,175 will receive Postgraduate Diploma certificates. Fifty two of the first degree graduates are graduating with First Class.
Friday, 6th January, 2017
“We Shall Continue to Operate an All-Inclusive Administration”
Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello has explained the purpose of Management Retreat as to provide opportunities to critically evaluate the performances of the leaders of the University, to discuss the major challenges in the University and develop action-plan for the coming year and beyond. He disclosed this at the end of the four day Retreat on Monday, 2nd February, 2017 at Bafra Hotel, Kaduna.
Professor Yahuza Bello said the reports presented by the Deans and Directors have provided additional value discussions leading to ideas and solutions that be deployed not only to improve the University's efficiency in teaching and research, but also to increase competitiveness and global reach.

MIDN Increases BUK Dental Programme Quota to 20
The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) has increased the Bayero University's Dental Programme Quota from 10 to 20 students because the Faculty of Dentistry in the University has more than the minimum standard of both personnel and equipment required for the training of more Dentists.
The Registrar of the Council, Dr. A.A, Ibrahim disclosed this in a statement he signed dated December, 14th, 2016. The Council, he said charged the University to continue to uphold standard to ensure quality training in the Faculty, with resulted production of Dental surgeons that will promote the National Oral Health Policy.

Friday, 13th January, 2017
Semester Examinations Extended ----- To Last for 3 Weeks
Semester examinations will now last for three weeks against the previously two to allow students have ample time to cope with the pressure of examinations, beginning from the first semester of 2016/2017, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello has disclosed.
Professor Yahuza Bello disclosed this to the newly elected executive officers of the Students Union Government, who were formerly introduced by the Dean, Students Affairs, Professor Muhammad Isma'il Zango on Thursday, 12th January, 2017.
The Vice Chancellor assure the SUG that the University Management would ensure conducive atmosphere to the students for effective learning and research, including students welfare; urging the students with peculiar registration problems to liaise with the Departments who would also write to the University Management for prompt action.

MACOSA BUK Visits 3 Radio Stations, Daily Trust
The Executive officers of the Mass Communication Students Association (MACOSA) of the Bayero University have visited three radio stations and the regional office of the Daily Trust Newspapers in Kano State as part of the efforts to establish a linkage between the students and media organisations in the state.
The President of the association, Abubakar Musa Abdullahi, who led the team on Wednesday, 4th January, 2017 said the visit also aimed at boosting the students' career development and as such he said they were impressed by the digital switch over of broadcasting in the Cool FM, Wazobia FM and Arewa Radio.
The Kano Regional Editor of Daily Trust Newspaper, Malam Yusha'u Ibrahim, challenged the students of higher institutions, especially those studying Mass Communication, to inculcate the habit of reading and writing.

Plans Underway to Modernise “Coke Village” Commercial Area – Prof. Tanko
The Management of Bayero University, Kano is working towards giving a befitting facelift to “Coke Village” commercial layout and other premises within the campuses as part of the policy to modernise business operations in the University.
The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Professor Adamu Idris Tanko disclosed this on Thursday, 5th January, 2017 when members of the Coke Village Traders Association paid him a solidarity visit in his office. He said the Management plans to provide a modern shopping mall, introduce a sanitation policy and provide public conveniences and other facilities in the business area.
The Chairman of the association, Alhaji Muhammadu Ghali, expressed delight with the cordial relationship between the traders and the University Management and also between them and the students.

Friday, 20th January, 2017
VC Commends Staff Unions for Calling-Off Strike
The Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, has commended the three non-teaching staff unions for calling-off their 5-day nationwide warning strike; he expressed the University Management's determination to continue to work with the unions for the betterment of the University.
The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational Institutions (NASU) had on Monday, 16th January, 2017 embarked on a 5-day warning strike over the failure of the Federal Government to implement the 2009 agreement with the unions.

BUK Awards N6.24m Scholarship to 156 Top Scoring Students
The Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, has approved scholarship totalling N6.24 million to the 156 best students with the highest CGPA at their levels from across the Departments in the University in which each student will be awarded N40,000.
A statement issued by the Deputy Registrar in the Directorate of Examinations, Admissions and Records (DEAR), Amina Umar Abdullahi directed each beneficiary to present ID card and awards letter to the Bursary Department for the collection of the funds.

Apart from this category of scholarship there are five other categories of scholarship being enjoyed by students in the University namely: the Etisalat scholarship, Federal scholarship, Jifatu and Azman scholarship for indigent students, PTDF scholarship and the scholarship awards from different organisations in Nigeria, Total, Agbami and Shell scholarships for Engineering, Medical and Science students.

BUK Will Lead in Research and Scholarship – Prof. Wallace

A Professor of Political Science from the University of Hartford CT, United Stahes of America, Professor Adryan Wallace, said Bayero University would soon assume leadership position in the area of research and scholarships among the globally rated universities.

Professor Wallace disclosed this to the Bayero University Bulletin on Tuesday, 10th January, 2017 shortly after a private audience with the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello.

She expressed her excitement on the investments in the university’s researches and scholarship, as well as the Centres for Renewable Energy and Centre for Gender Studies.

BUK Gets Space Weather and Atmospheric Laboratory

The Centre for Atmospheric Research (CAR) in collaboration with Bayero University, Kano has established a joint laboratory for Space Weather and Atmospheric Physics Laboratory Swap in the Department of Physics.

This was disclosed by the Director and Chief Executive CAR, Professor Babatunde Rabiu when he presented the Campbell Scientific Automatic Weather Station to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello on Friday, 13th January, 2017 in his office.

The Director, represented by the Assistant Chief Science Officer and Project Manager of Tropospheric Data Acquisition Network (TRODAN), Najeeb Yusuf said the equipment has nine censors which measure nine parameters ranging from the measurement of the air temperature, relative humidity, barometer pressure, solar radiation, rain rate, wind speed, wind direction, soil temperature and soil moisture.

Islamic Banking a Veritable Catalyst for Economic Growth – Emir Sanusi II

The Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II has described the concept of Islamic Banking as a veritable catalyst that would ensure economic growth and sustainable development all over the world.

The Emir disclosed this during the 3rd International Conference on Islamic Banking held at Bayero University, Kano on Thursday, 19th January, 2017, saying that those who were ignorant about the system had failed to discern the enormous benefits to be derived from it.

The Director of the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIIBF), Bayero University, Professor Binta Tijjani Jibril said the conference was jointly organized with a partnership from Islamic Research and Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She said the BUK Institute was the only one accredited to award both academic and professional programme in Islamic Finance in the African Sub region.

Friday, 27th January, 2017
BUK Holds 33rd Convocation on 14th March, 2017

Bayero University, Kano will hold its 33rd Convocation from 13th to 18th of March, 2017, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Professor Adamu Idris Tanko has disclosed when he led the Management staff of the University to the Palace of the University’s Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Papapereye Diete Spiff in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State Capital, to notify the Chancellor of the date of the Convocation.

The team had equally visited the state governor, Seriake Dickson at the Bayelsa Government House during which the governor told them that the state government will establish a new University to be called “Alfred University.”

Dearth of Reading Culture Worries VC – Sets to Revive it in BUK

Bayero University is working towards reviving the dying reading culture among students, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello has disclosed on Tuesday, 24th January, 2017, when he received donation of books worth over 5 million Naira from the Chief Executive Officer of Havilah Merchants based in Lagos.

Professor Yahuza Bello said with the advent of technology and social media, things got worse, because, students became lazier and often chose to “cut and paste” instead of conducting extensive research through reading hard books.

Earlier, the donor, Mr. Lanre Adesuyi, said the organisation decided to donate the books to BUK as part of its corporate social responsibility, adding that “We at Havila Groups are proud to be associated with the good work of Bayero University in the area of teaching, research and scholarship.”

ASUP Honours Vice Chancellor

African Students Union Parliament ASUP has presented a certificate of honour to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello for his contribution to the development of the youth not only in Nigeria and Africa but also in the world in general.

The Speaker of the Parliament Honourable Coulibaly Ahmed during the presentation said the parliament with representatives from 52 countries in Africa were in Nigeria to hold campaign against drug abuse, which become a problem among the African youth.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello has said that the University Management was taking the student unions along with the Student Union Government having representation in the Budget Implementation Committee. He saluted the parliament for initiating a campaign against drug abuse and assured them that the University would give them the necessary support to achieve the target goal.
The duo of Ahmad Shehu & Barrister Atonte Diете-Spiff explore the leadership qualities and the instrumentality of the power of mediation inherent in His Royal Majesty, the Sereiyai II Amanyanabo of Twon Brass, King Alfred Papapereye Diете-Spiff, which has been yielding dividends in the current peace overtures between the Federal Government and the members of the Niger-Delta agitators.

King Alfred Papapereye Diète Spiff:
The Consummate Peace Broker

Since time immemorial, internal and cross-border wrangling has been part of human evolution of all societies on the planet, Earth. Therefore, conflicts of varying degrees cut across time and geography. They are an integral part of everyday life – in homes, schools, universities, companies, governments, communities, states, and nations. And today with the speed with which information is delivered, conflict is no longer something we only hear about or read in the history books but is an activity we witness in full colour on a minute by minute basis.

Without doubt, therefore, mistrust is the genesis of human suffering. Firstly, it robs a community, state or nation of the peaceful coexistence people deserve to enjoy their domain. Secondly it can generate to destruction of communities, states and nations. Hence, structured interventions to resolve such wranglings are critical and existential. This is why conflict resolution has become a very topical subject in the management of divergent views with effectiveness before they degenerate to an undesirable outcome.

Of recent, Nigerians have been awash with reports on daily basis on the seemingly intractable conflicts currently bedevilling our nation. There is the Boko haram conflict in the far North, and restiveness in the Niger Delta region concerning development in the area, cattle rustling and religious or ethnic conflicts as well as boundary commotion in the central, south east and south west axis, among other social vices.

While it is evident that a tiny minority grow fat under such condition because of their greed and unpatriotic tendencies, there are yet few others who feel visibly concerned about the gory situation and, therefore, work day and night to ensure peaceful resolution of such conflicts and crisis.

Of course, in every society, there exist men of goodwill and patriotism. Therefore, one name that stands unique in the quest of finding lasting peace in the country is the Chancellor of Bayero University Kano, His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Papapereye Diète-Spiff. He has been visible in all the peace negotiations for a very long period. As the militants were restive, he had been equally restless in seeing to an abrupt end to the crisis within and outside his domain and by extension the Nigerian landscape. His Royal Majesty is heading the Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group along with Dr. Judith Asuni and has been very active and substantively involved.
in brokering a peace settlement between the aggrieved constituents of the Niger Delta States and the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Impressed by the personal commitment of his Royal Majesty in the mediation role, the BUK Today had a one-on-one chat with him in order to dig deep into his intervention strategies in the peace process over time with a view to providing an insightful posture of what motivated him to engage in that role. Your guess is as good as mine, when he said a combination of patriotism, love for the common man, and of course, the desires to contribute to the development of humanity were the motivating factors.

To begin with, when confronted with the question of what inspired him to get involved in brokering peace and resolving disagreements or disputes between the opposing parties, the answer given by his Royal Majesty was that his quest for peace remained the underlying force. Thus he narrated “many years ago, I came across an advertisement in one of the nation’s foremost newspaper, inviting people to attend an induction course in Mediation which would qualify candidates as Associate Members of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC). The course emphasised the very critical role that Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) was beginning to play as an alternative to settling disputes between aggrieved parties in industry, government, and even places of worship. It had become the in thing as an alternative to litigation which may prove to be quite expensive and which usually creates some degree of estrangement amongst parties in its aftermath.”

He continued opening up, that after the initial lectures he also invited some of his other colleagues to join in taking the course and three of them registered and participated. At the end of the five day course, they were told to write an exam. But at this point, he stated, his other colleagues shied away from writing the exam. But he surrendered himself to writing the examination, which by providence he came out with flying colours.

ADR has been common in Africa from time immemorial as a form of settling disputes. It has always been our culture from the family level to the community level. It is an integral part of our family and chieftaincy structures. The underlying objective upheld in these structures is family and community unity and peaceful coexistence – a “win-win” for all sides concerned.

Determined to make a career in dispute resolution, King Alfred, disclosed that after the completion of this course on Arbitration, his attention was further drawn to another course on Arbitration. Without hesitation, he went ahead to register and completed the course very successfully. Now fully armed with these two basic certificates, he then become a truly certified Attorney in dispute resolution, which, therefore, widened his horizon to now go international. As a result, he attended several seminars in both South Africa and Dubai. Perhaps, this made it possible for his Royal Majesty to be admitted into the Membership of African ADR, an organisation established in conformance with the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations to encourage the use of alternative and appropriate methods for the resolution of disputes. “I am now a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators”. Last year he was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Arbitration Nigeria, thus, make him actively involved in training. The Amanyanabo of Twon Brass was of the opinion that in view of the importance of mediation in the society, certain category of officers in both the public and private sectors should be mandated to take a course in mediation and conciliation.

To match pronouncements with action, he said he encouraged fellow Royal Majesties and other paramount rulers and chiefs in communities to invest in taking the course. The course should also be taught at our universities as part of the curriculum he suggested. On how he feels as a mediator, he aptly said, “I find mediation and conciliation very uplifting and fulfilling. I get a lot of joy and satisfaction when persons and groups locked in their positions with daggers drawn started listening to each other and embracing themselves at the end of my mediation interventions”. He further revealed, saying that mediation and conciliation works so well. He also narrated that “the very fact that I was named as a Mediator caused the parties to speedily reconcile themselves. I remember one particular dispute that stands out. I have been invited to mediate a dispute in Lagos. All arrangements were completed and I was set to travel to Lagos. When the opposing party heard that I was the one coming in to mediate the dispute, they quickly conceded to settle the matter amicably. It was gratifying.”

When asked about the number of Peace Negotiations he has been involved, he said they were too numerous to mention, many of them were on the personal level, others at industrial and governmental levels. He was given a Crown of Peace Award in 2004 by the Federation for World Peace. In 2012, he was also instrumental in the peaceful resolution of the face-off between the management of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST) and the institution’s chapter of the Academic Staff Union Staff Union of Universities
His Royal Majesty is currently the Chairman of various peace organizations and initiatives involving various disgruntled groups, the federal government, communities, and organizations as follows:

- The Niger Delta Dialogue Contact Group which is currently mediating peace between the Federal Government of Nigeria and members of stakeholders in the Niger Delta states.

- The Bayelsa State Conflict Management Alliance (BSCMA) under the auspices of the Centre for Niger Delta Studies of the Niger Delta University and the British High Commission. “Currently, we are addressing the conflict in Peremabiri community which has resulted in deaths, the infliction of serious bodily harm, and internally displaced persons (IDPs),” he explained.

- The State Advisory Committee of the Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme. “Currently, we are addressing insecurity in the flash points in Bayelsa State and brokering peace within and between communities to enhance security and prevent loss of lives,” he added.

As a chartered dispute resolver and mediator, he sees no challenges per se to the issue of mediation, but pointed out that the only way to success is that conflicts are handled in a collaborative way. Doggedly insisting on one’s own point of view and engaging in destructive acts to call attention to that point of view as well as restiveness or agitation all indicate someone who is unskilled at handling conflicts in a collaborative way. The same is true for going silent about one’s perspective or opinion. It’s like not being able to kick a ball into the goal post, indicating that a player needs to practise more on how to score in football.

The nature of ADR itself, he explained, is designed to eliminate any challenges as opposing parties are encouraged to come together to settle their differences and disagreements amicably and with a minimum of disadvantages. It is very useful and handy in everyday life.

Perhaps, if our public servants and/or community leaders at various levels avail themselves to acquiring knowledge on dispute mediation mechanism as exemplified by his Royal Majesty Amanayabo of Twon Brass, it is certain that the effort towards having a peaceful society would be attain as every segment of the society will be at peace with one another and the country in particular and the world in general will be a nice place to live on.

Ahmad Shehu is the Director of Public Affairs at Bayero University Kano and Barrister Atonte Diête-Spiff is Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Bayelsa State on Traditional Rulers.
On Tuesday, 14th February, 2017, the team of COREN accreditors visited Bayero University, Kano. Abubakar Yusuf noted that the team came with high expectation given BUK’s reputation.

It is on record that regulatory bodies like Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) and others visit high institutions of learning to study the facilities on ground for certain programmers. Based on their assessment they could give advices or to even stop the institution from offering the programmer. COREN, like other organizations concerned with quality assurance. It aims at ensuring that products of engineering programmes in Universities, Polytechnics and Technical Colleges produce sound functional engineering personnel that meet the challenges of the society and compete favourably with their counterparts anywhere in the world. Adequate facilities must, therefore, be available in our universities to build this capacity.

The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) accreditation team under the leadership of Engr. Sunday A. Umanah visited Bayero University for re-accreditation of two Engineering programmes that is Mechatronics and Chemical and Petroleum on Tuesday 14th February 2017. During a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, in his office the team leader told the Vice Chancellor that accreditation of Engineering is a major mandate of the COREN in accordance with the act set up the council.

He said accreditation by COREN is for partnership and growth, not for “witch-hunting”. It aims at building, not destroying. But it is also a very strict process; firm but fair. “A team of experienced, skilled and highly knowledgeable professionals have been put together from the industry and academia to carry out this exercise. I would like to assure you that a meticulous work will be done that will be the true picture of the situation” Engineer Sunday added. He called on the University Management to give his team maximum cooperation to facilitate the execution of the exercise. “Kindly, be open and provide any information required.

Technical Colleges produce sound functional engineering personnel that meet the challenges of the society and compete favourably with their counterparts anywhere in the world. Adequate facilities must, therefore, be available in our universities to build this capacity.

Again, I want to remind you that we are here to build the Engineering Programmes of this University together” he said.

The team leader further stated that running engineering programmes that have not been accredited by COREN or continuing such programmes with expired or failed accreditation
status is illegal and is a contravention of the Act establishing COREN. According to him Section (1) (b) of Degree 55 of 1970 and 27 of 1992 (amendment) empowers COREN to; “determine what standards of knowledge and skills are to be attained by persons seeking to become registered as engineering personnel and to raise those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit. For this purpose, the Act provides that COREN shall conduct visitation to Engineering Institutions in Nigeria or elsewhere for the purpose of; (a) Accrediting their courses (sections 7 and 8 of the Decrees) (b) Withdrawing any previous approvals, if so warranted and as prescribed in subsections (3)-(5) of section 7”.

Engr. Sunday Umanah said also section 9 sub-section 6 of the Act provides that: “An educational institution for the training of persons in the Engineering profession shall submit syllabus of its programmes, contents and minimum facilities to the National Universities Commission or the National Board for Technical Education before it is commenced.” He said that considering this Act products of any unaccredited programme will NEVER be registered even if the programme is eventually accredited.

“Let me quickly appreciate the Vice Chancellor Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello on his favourable disposition to Engineering in this Institution. We are aware that you have taken Engineering as priority and next to your heart. Kindly keep this up because with a well developed Engineering Faculty, the pride of this Institution will reach its pinnacle and our nation will have everything to gain from it. Engineering is the true asset for development. Keep up the good works,” Engr. Umanah concluded.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, who was represented by the University Librarian, Dr. Musa A. Auyo described accreditation exercise as a complementary effort to maintain and improve the standard of training in the University. “Bayero University always welcomes Accreditation teams which visit the University because we are seeing them as partners in progress.” Professor Bello explained.

Professor Yahuza Bello while promising to give them all necessary cooperation to achieve the desired goal, assured them that the University would look into their finds in view to implementing it.

It can be recalled that when the Vice President of the Council for Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, COREN, Professor E. A. Ajav lead a team of Engineers from Africa and Asian countries under the umbrella of High Level Policy Forum on Engineering Accreditation and Mobility in Africa during a courtesy call on Bayero University Vice Chancellor, in his office on Thursday 21st July 2016, described the Faculty of Engineering of the University as among the best. He said COREN had observed and was always happy with the reports of accreditation teams any time they visit Bayero University Faculty of Engineering: “Your Faculty of Engineering is the among the best Faculties of Engineering we have in this country,” Professor Ajav added.

*Abubakar Yusuf is a Senior Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.*
Bayero University has entered into the annals of global sporting history as one of its staff invented a new game that has never been played in the world before, the desert shuttle run/walk. Nura Garba unveils the secret behind the introduction of this new game.

The history of basketball began with its invention in 1891 in Springfield, Massachusetts by a Canadian physical education instructor, James Naismith as a less injury-prone sport. The game became established fairly quickly and grew popular as the 20th century progressed, first in America and then throughout the world.

Similarly, the game of volleyball was invented in 1895 by William G. Morgan after the invention of basketball. Morgan, a graduate of the Springfield College of the YMCA, designed the game to be a combination of basketball, tennis and handball.

As both basketball and volleyball took their roots, an origin from America, a new game has just been invented in Bayero University, Kano and it has started generating wide applause from different stakeholders in sports including pundits in sports. The game is simply known as Desert Shuttle Walk.

In 2016, a Professor of Physical Health Education, Rabiu Mohammed, coined the idea of introducing a new game among staff and students of Bayero University, Kano. He was just appointed as the new Sports Director when he summoned a meeting of Faculty representatives and told them that he had introduced a Desert Shuttle/Walk Run, which would be competed for by all the University's faculties and the Office of the Vice Chancellor.

The idea was greeted with commendation from all the participants, given that the same Professor, shortly before his appointment, spearheaded a brand new competition, Penalty Shootout, which was favourably competed by all the faculties and the Office of the Vice Chancellor. At the end of the competition, the Office of the Vice Chancellor claimed the cup with a victory over the Faculty of Dentistry.

Basking in the euphoria of Penalty Shootout Competition, the faculty representatives unanimously endorsed and adopted the 50-Meter.
Desert Shuttle Run but only for people of 80kg and above. It was later that the game was changed to 50-Meter Desert Shuttle Walk.

The 50 Meters Desert Shuttle Walk started precisely on 23rd January, 2017, established by Professor Rabi’u Mohammed as part of his plans to different sporting events totally different from the conventional ones.

Indeed, he succeeded in creating the first ever penalty shootout football competition where the competitors would only kick penalty shootouts. At the end of the penalty shootout competition, the Vice Chancellor’s office won the trophy.

Representatives of the varsity’s converged at the Sports Arena of Old Campus for the much anticipated 50 Meters Desert Shuttle Walk and journalists from print and broadcast media came in troops to have firsthand information of the newly created game.

The final match took place on Saturday, 28th January, 2017, where four (4) faculties of Education, Communication, Allied Health Sciences and Engineering competed. At the end of the game, Saminu Umar of the Faculty of Communication emerged the overall winner.

Readers may be anxious to know what 50 Meters Desert Shuttle Walk is all about?

The game was designed for people not below 80 kg, where participants will walk through their marked space to pick up 4 balls that are provided in a basket. The winner emerges after he beats his opponent. In this way, the first two winners quality for the next stage. This gave the participants and the stakeholders something to cheer and appreciate, having seen a different game with much interest.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, who was represented at the final day of the competition by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration, Professor Adamu Idris Tanko, said a part from serving the University with a new brand sporting event, the competition provided an avenue for interaction among the university staff.

‘We are proud with the Sports Director, who has been up and doing and who has been introducing new chapters in sporting engagements among staff and students’, the Vice Chancellor said.

The Vice Chancellor even enjoined organizers of Nigerian Universities Games Association (NUGA) and Nigerian Universities Staff Sports Association (NUSSA) to include the desert shuttle walk/run in their sports calendar.

The inventor of this new game, Professor Rabi’u Muhammad, said in an interview that it was an innovation introduced for members of Bayero University community, whereby staff and students would be physically engaged in a new competition different from the conventional ones. He said the goal was to entrench participation, promote cordially and mutually beneficial relationship among the staff. He explained that many staff were overweight as a result of excessive work and the game helped a lot to achieve the desired goals.

One of the most important issues observed is that many staff started demonstrating the game even after the competition and they were enjoying it well. Also, the game has been included in the Inter-Faculty games for students.

The pitch was designed to suit the desert nature of the North and according to Prof Muhammad, it was artificially organized with all the facilities supplied with the courtesy of the Vice Chancellor’s support and magnanimous contributions. This, according to Prof. Muhammad, made the competition to be successful.

The introduction of Desert Shuttle Walk/Run has unfolded the wisdom and creative mindset to which newer sporting events could be invented.

The introduction of this modern game by Professor Rabi’u Mohammed can elevate him to be among the architects of games invention such as Naismith and Morgan; and the game, if properly adopted, could be among the games to be played anywhere in the world.

Nura Garba writes from the Directorate of Public Affairs
The importance of promotion to deserving staff members in raising morale and improving productivity cannot be overemphasized. We will therefore continue to promote qualified staff members.

b. Staff Audit

The University Management decided to conduct a comprehensive audit of all staff members for a number of reasons. First of all, the shortfall in personnel costs and the measures taken to minimize its impact meant that there was the need for optimum utilization of existing staff members. Secondly, some of the measures taken meant that the number of staff members is dropping gradually. This could be misinterpreted by external agencies when they consider the figures at different times. The University needs to keep track of these changes. Thirdly, there was no reliable data on staff strength, leading to conflicting figures when such data are provided by different units. Finally, such data was needed for the purpose of planning.

A Management Committee was set up, under the chairmanship of the Director of Academic Planning, and charged with the task of carrying out the staff audit. They carried out the exercise in two steps. In the first step, data on staff members were uploaded to the University website, staff members were issued with personalized login particulars and requested to log in and provide information about themselves and their employment with the University. The second step involved physical verification of each staff member at his/her place of work, and confirmation by the head of unit.

The exercise has been completed and the data collected is being analyzed. The following pieces of information have so far been extracted from the data:

- Information on 4,435 staff members was uploaded on the website, and 4,299 staff members have been verified so far. Some of the 136 yet to be verified are contract staff and staff on leave of absence or study fellowship. The issue is being pursued to its logical conclusion.
- Of the 4,295 verified staff members, 28 are on sabbatical leave, 8 are on secondment to other places, 29 are on study leave, 366 are on study fellowship, 9 are on leave without pay, and 51 are on leave of absence.
By highest qualification among the verified staff members, 532 have PhD, 839 have master's degree, 122 have postgraduate diploma, 455 have first degree, 173 have HND, 257 have OND, 212 have SSCE, 183 have primary school certificate, 246 have no qualifications, and the rest did not indicate any qualification.

From the initial data uploaded on the website, the University has 1,537 academic staff members, 192 senior technical staff, 892 senior non-technical staff, 871 junior staff, and 841 contract staff. Most of the contract staff are junior staff – cleaners, drivers, and security.

A comprehensive report about the staff audit will be submitted to UMC after a complete analysis of the data collected is carried out.

c. Elections of New Union Executives
Two staff unions conducted elections for officers to run their affairs in the next two years. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) elected Dr. Ibrahim Magaji Barde, HOD Accounting, as its new Chairman. The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) elected Mal. Haruna Aliyu of the Directorate of Establishment Matters as its new chairperson. All the elections were peaceful. In fact, the two chairmen were elected unopposed.

d. Reorganization of Staff Primary School and Establishment of Creche
Following the decision of the National Salaries and Wages Commission that workers of Staff Schools could be paid from Government subventions, the Staff Primary School had to be reorganized. (There were no problems with the Secondary and Nursery Schools, as their workers were not on the University payroll.) The contract of all contract staff in the School was terminated/not renewed, while most of those on permanent appointment have been absorbed into other units of the University, with a few of them being retired. A Management Committee was set to up run the school. The Committee has employed a Headmaster and other teachers for the School. With this development, all three schools are now run under the same arrangements – salaries and other running costs are to be paid from the school fees collected from parents.

A crèche has been established on the New Campus for the benefit of staff and students. More are expected to be established on the two main campuses either by the University or private organizations (with subsidy from the University). The overall aim is to provide affordable alternative to nannies and ultimately to the banning of babies in academic areas.

e. Municipal Services
The year 2016 has witnessed an improvement in the supply of electricity from the national grid. This has resulted in an increase in the monthly KEDCO bills. The bills now average about N21 million, against the previous average of N4 million. This is a positive development as the very high bills for diesel purchase and generator maintenance have now gone down.

The attention of Management has been drawn to the resurfacing of cold-rooms, heavy duty refrigerators and similar devices in residential quarters. A Management committee headed by DVC (Admin.) is looking into the issue.

Unfortunately, water supply to the University’s campuses has not improved. The situation is worse on the New Campus where there is virtually no supply from the State Water Board. A technical committee has been discussing with Kano State Water Board on the possibility of getting a dedicated water line to the New Campus.

f. Student s' Welfare
Four newly constructed students' halls of residence have been completed. The Deanery of Student Affairs is working on allocating them for occupation in the new academic session. Due to financial constraints, the University has not been able to furnish students halls of residence over the years. Thus, students are only being provided with 'bed spaces' and they have to make individual arrangements for beds and beddings. Considering that existing hostels had been fully renovated to good standards and new modern ones built, Management decided to provide beds, matrasses and pillows in the halls, starting with the four newly constructed ones. The beds were chosen in consultation with representatives of the students, and it was agreed that the hostel
maintenance charges for all furnished rooms would be increased by N5,000 so that the costs of the furniture would be recovered over its lifespan. The students are happy with the arrangements as the inconveniences of transporting beds and mattresses have been removed.

**g. PG Student’s Resource Rooms**
In order to improve the welfare of postgraduate students and improve the quality of postgraduate programmes, Management has decided to establish and furnish postgraduate students resource rooms in each faculty. Such rooms would provide avenues for postgraduate students to stay and do their work whenever they visit the University. The rooms have been established and furnished in the Faculty of Communication, while the Faculty of Science is rehabilitating the room to be used. Appropriate locations have also been identified in such faculties as Education and Basic Medical Sciences. Other faculties are expected to inform Management about the proposed locations. Meanwhile, some special furniture items are being imported by a supplier, and the University may purchase some of them for the resource rooms.

### 3.5 Physical Development Projects

Participants at this Retreat may wish to note the following concerning physical development project. (The Secretary of Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Documentation Committee shall make presentations at subsequent Retreats.)

**a. General Report on Status**
A lot of progress has been made on physical development projects during the year under review. Indeed, the report that some academic units have already moved into the new structures is a clear indication that many of them have been completed. Indeed, many more than those occupied have been completed, or are about to be completed. We present below additional information on some of the projects, as well as some general

**b. Needs Assessment Projects**
As discussed under financial issues, the University has received part of the outstanding balance of our Needs Assessment projects allocations. These have been used to settle all outstanding certificates, and contractors of ongoing projects have been requested to return to sites. Arrangements have been made to ensure that their certificates will be settled. The holiday season seems to be affecting the rate of return.

**c. TETFund Projects**
We are yet to receive any additional releases from TETFund. This was due to the delay in monitoring visit by their officials. After the intervention of the Executive Secretary, the officials have finally visited and confirmed that close to 20 projects have been completed, and that the outstanding 15% project costs were due to release. We expect that the report will be submitted to the ES very soon, and he had promised to approve the release immediately thereafter.

The non-receipt of funds from TETFund for quite some time is affecting the completion of some projects. Indeed, some contractors have unpaid certificates worth hundreds of millions of Naira. This development has made most of the contractors to abandon sites. Fortunately, the levels of execution of the projects are such that they could be completed within a short time of receiving additional funds. Thus, there is no fear of abandoned projects, or variation in project costs.
4. Aliko Dangote Project

Members of UMC may recall that the University Business School being constructed by Aliko Dangote has faced many delays over the years. We are glad to report that the project has recently experienced tremendous progress. It is expected that the project will be completed and commissioned early in 2017.

The initial cost of the project was said to be about N527 million. This has increased substantially due to modifications and additional works. These include replacement of terrazzo with granite on the floors, air conditioning, furnishings, extensive landscaping, external decorations (including marble on some walls), glass cover for the staircase, a 1,000 KVA transformer, and a 1,000 KVA standby generator. The total cost is now estimated to be at least N1 billion.

Members of UMC may also recall that, taking into account this massive investment of Aliko Dangote, as well as the global recognition of the Dangote name and its association with success in business, UMC has approved that the Bayero Business School (BBS) be renamed Dangote Business School, Bayero University, Kano (DBS-BUK). The Governing Council has endorsed this decision at its meeting last week.

There is a suggestion from some quarters that, in line with the practice in some renowned universities, the name should be Dangote School of Business (DSB). UMC may wish to look into this.

c. 2016 Capital Projects

The University has received N225 million, being 40% of its 2016 Capital Grant. The total grant is for the execution of two projects – the International Conference Centre (ICC), and the conversion of some structures in the former Faculty of Law into laboratories for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The first is an ongoing project, while the second is a new one. Work is progressing on both, though execution of the ICC project has slowed down. Work on the laboratories for Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences is expected to be completed next month, and the Faculty is to move in by February.

There are some doubts about the release of the 60% balance of the Capital Grant. The 2016 Supplementary Federal Budget was said to have moved funds from Capital Expenditure to Recurrent Expenditure, and that additional releases may be limited to only some priority capital projects. We have taken this into account, so that it will have limited effect on the execution of our projects.

4 SOME PLANS FOR ACHIEVING OUR CARDINAL OBJECTIVES

The cardinal objectives of our administration, as discussed during last year’s Retreat, are as follows:

I. running an open and inclusive administration;
ii. sustaining and improving quality in teaching;
iii. pursuing excellence in research and postgraduate training;
iv. continuous improvement in staff capacity building and staff welfare;
v. sustaining and improving on the excellent culture of accountability and prudence;
vi. broad consultations and reaching out to friends and benefactors of the university; and
vii. maintaining harmonious working relation with all unions.

I would like to share with you some of the plans of Management on attaining some of these objectives. (It should be noted that some of them, such as numbers i, v, vi, and vii, are to be built into processes and activities of the University.)

a. Towards Quality in Teaching

Our overall goal in the next four years is to utilize the material and human resources that were recently provided (and additional ones to be provided) in improving the quality of the teaching and learning process. The Directorates of Academic Planning and Laboratory Management will work with faculties in ensuring that classes are broken into more manageable sizes for effective teaching and learning.

In utilizing available funds and other resources, the priority is supporting existing programmes and units. For example, we are aware of the need for additional laboratories, workshops, and offices in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Earth and Environmental Sciences, among others. In consultations with FEES and Engineering, we shall soon design structures to house additional laboratories, workshops and offices. Similarly, structural analysis and
redesigning of some laboratories in the Faculty of Science are to be carried out. These will enable quick implementation once the funds become available.

Many departments from all over the University are also in need of additional teaching facilities. We are also making plans for the continued (re)equipping and (re)tooling of our classrooms, laboratories, workshops, offices, etc. We plan to devot substantial parts of future TETFund and Needs Assessment allocations in doing this.

To ensure the maintenance and quick repair of classroom and laboratory equipment, a Maintenance Committee has been set up with DAP Deputy Director (Academic Support) as chairman and all Sub-Deans (Facilities) as members. The Committee has already commenced work. It is currently working on getting the lecture seats in some theatres properly and firmly installed. The badly broken seats in Ruqayya and Ibrahim Geidam Theatres (in the Faculty of Education) are being replaced with more durable ones.

There is also the need for a vibrant mechanism for internal quality assurance. In addition to accreditation visits by regulatory and professional bodies, a Central Quality Assurance Committee is to be established under the chairmanship of DAP Deputy Director (Quality Assurance). Faculties are also to establish Faculty Quality Assurance Committees. A memo on the issues is to be submitted to Senate in due course.

The capacity of staff members will continue to be improved through conference sponsorship and in-house training and workshops. We also need to encourage our colleagues to embrace the idea of attitudinal change in order to improve the teaching-learning process.

c. Towards Staff Capacity Building

The University is very current in the utilization of its Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D) allocations from TETFund, and does not have any unaccessed funds. Indeed, there are many applicants in the waiting list. To ensure that the University gets value for money in AST&D utilization as well as ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation, a committee has been set up under the DVCs that will assess all applications and make appropriate recommendations.

We note, with appreciation, that a number of staff members interested in pursuing studies for higher degrees abroad have been successful in securing external support. In particular, we note the unprecedented number of staff members that secured scholarships from the Petroleum Technology Training Fund (PTDF) and from countries like Iran. We shall continue to support staff members in their applications for such scholarships and to augment what the scholarships do not cover.

The same committee is to assist the University in accessing its accumulated funds for conference sponsorship, manuscript and journal publications, and such unaccessed funds. The idea is to utilize all these funds in capacity building for both academic and non-academic staff members.

b. Towards Excellence in Research

DRIP and the various research centres will be encouraged and supported to initiate and anchor cutting-edge research activities in the University. To this end, a retreat will be held early in 2017 that will discuss ways and means of making the University, attain this goal.

It is common knowledge that, globally, postgraduate students are important participants in research. We need to strengthen our postgraduate research and empower our postgraduate students. The move to establish and equip PG Resource Rooms in all faculties will be pursued with vigour in the coming year. But we need to do more. As a University, we need to work conscientiously to ensure that postgraduate students to complete their studies within the shortest time allowed by the regulations. This would enable us to attract and graduate more good students.

We plan to equip the research centres with equipment that could be used across programmes and units. Departmental research laboratories will also be equipped. The enhanced bench-work fees will be used to provide the postgraduate students with basic consumables needed for their studies and research.

Discussions have been held with the respective Deans and Head of Departments on the modalities for this, and the discussions will continue.

To achieve excellence in research and postgraduate studies, we shall continue to encourage and support research centres, faculties and departments to source research grants from national and international agencies and organizations. Management will facilitate applications for competitive research grants.
For conference attendance, in particular, it is noted that the University spends many times more than the TETFund annual grant for this purpose. In view of the importance and benefits of conference attendance to the attendees and the system, Management will continue to devote substantial part of its internal development funds to augment the TETFund grants.

5 CONCLUSION
This brief opening address and the detailed presentations to be made by Deans, Directors and other officers are testimonies of the advances made by the University in the year about to end, as well as in the years preceding it. These advances would not have been possible without the support and contributions of all members of the large BUK family.

With contributions by all those gathered here and many others, we are building on the solid foundation laid down by our predecessors. I must admit that we are enjoying tremendous amount of support, cooperation and good counsel from the Pro-chancellor and from all members of Council. I also want to thank all the Principal Officers, members of UMC, members of the Senate and indeed the entire body of staff of the university, for their support, due diligence, and professional commitment to our assignments.

Permit me to pay special tribute to those members of the BUK family who were with us last year, but are not here today for the various reasons I stated in the introductory section. Let all of us be aware that, like them, we shall not be at some future Retreats. Let us therefore continue to give our best to BUK while we have the chance to do so.

While praying that we have very fruitful deliberations at this Retreat, I want urge each and every one of us to share our thoughts and opinions on every aspect of this exercise. The aggregate of these thoughts will go a long way in shaping the directions and perspectives of our great University.

There are no words to express my gratitude to you all for the sacrifices you have been making in order to ensure that our university remains great and grows from strength to strength. Your attendance at this Retreat – away from your families, away from your official and personal affairs for four days and during this festive season – is a clear testimony of your sacrifices for BUK and your belief in it. I salute you for this and for your many other sacrifices, contributions, and commitment.

I want to reassure the university community, through this forum, that we will together continue to strive for excellence in every facet of university life. We will continue to be prudent and transparent. We will continue to operate an inclusive administration that places very high regard on merit, competence and credibility.

Finally, I want to thank our students for their maturity, peacefulness, civility and for the serious commitment they invest in their studies.

Most importantly, all praises are due to Allah the Lord of the worlds, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

You are all welcome to the 2016 Bayero University, Retreat.

Thank you very much.

Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello
Vice-Chancellor
December 29, 2016
(Concluded)
Got an interesting piece for BUK Today?

*BUK Today* welcomes concisely written articles from the University Community, of either 700 or 1,500 words (accompanied by high quality, information rich photographs, suitably captioned), that will be of interest to readers.

Possible topics could aim at highlighting what has been achieved or needs to be done to make BUK a world class institution in teaching, research, knowledge generation and exchange as well as academic excellence in general. Also research breakthroughs, novel ideas gathered from conferences, seminars and workshops as well as travelogues, can possibly be source materials, along with others.

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