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167 STUDENTS BAG 1ST CLASS AS UDUS GRADUATES 22,932 STUDENTS IN 4 YEARS

ALSO IN THIS EDITION

- NSA makes 1st Official Outing, Delivers Convocation Lecture at UDUS
- Danfodiyo honours 2 Retired Lecturers with Emeritus Status





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“To be a centre of excellence in terms of teaching, research and community service in all fields of human endeavours”

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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167 Students Bag 1st Class as UDUS Graduates 22,932 Students in 4 Years



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Bilbis delivering his Convocation Address

One hundred and sixty seven out of the 22,932 students that graduated from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto in the last four years have bagged first class.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis disclosed this during the conferment of various degrees to the graduates as part of the activities marking the 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st combined convocation of the University.

According to Bilbis, 18,644 graduands would receive various Bachelor's degrees and certificates, having been found worthy in both character and learning.

"Of this number, 18,217 would receive Bachelor degrees and 427 Diplomas and Certificates. In addition, students would receive various prizes for their excellent performance in their chosen disciplines," he said

The Vice Chancellor noted that 3,486 students graduated with Second Class Upper while 9,573 graduated with Second class Lower.

He added that 3,777 students graduated with Third class while 15 graduated with Pass Degrees in their respective programmes.

The remaining 1199 students were from programmes such as Veterinary Medicine, MBBS, and Nursing, among others.

The Vice Chancellor named the best graduating students for the four sessions, which include: Adeyi Enyo-Ojo of the Department of Agriculture who emerged the best student for 2018/2019 session with 4.78 CGPA.

Isma'ila Abdullateef of the Forestry Department was the best student for 2019/2020 session with 4.72 CGPA while Salaudeen Sodiq of Accounting Department emerged the best student for 2020/2021 session with 4.73 CGPA.

Lastly, Abdulganiyu Abdurrahman Akambi of Islamic Studies Department was the 2022/2023 winner with 4.96 CGPA.

Bilbis, while congratulating the students, urged them to express gratitude to Allah for passing through the University which has been known as disciplined, peaceful and recognized as citadel of learning internationally.

He commended them for their hardwork and determination which had brought them to that momentous occasion.

"As you stand on the threshold of a new chapter in your lives, remember to take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of your accomplishments.

"You have proven yourselves to be resilient, capable and equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead," he said.



As you stand on the threshold of a new chapter in your lives, remember to take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of your accomplishments. You have proven yourselves to be resilient, capable and equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead



The University Mace Bearer leading the convocation procession



From the left: DVC (Academic), Prof MG Mahuta; DVC (RI&D), Prof Yusuf Saidu; Registrar, Mal. Nurudeen Abubakar Belko; and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Lawal Suleiman Bilbis



A cross section of graduands during the convocation ceremony

NSA Makes 1st Official Outing, Delivers Convocation Lecture at UDUS

The National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu has made his first official outing by delivering a Convocation lecture at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

"This is my first official outing since my appointment as the National Security Adviser. I want this to be on record," he stressed.

Ribadu delivered a lecture titled: "Navigating The Maze: Addressing Multi-Dimensional Security Challenges In Northern Nigeria."

The lecture which took place at the Ultra modern hall of the University was chaired by the Nigerian Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande.

The lecture was attended by the Sultan of Sokoto Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, Heads of Security Agencies in Sokoto state and host of others.

In the lecture, Ribadu x-rayed the myriad of security challenges bedeviling the North, ranging from Banditry, Kidnapping for Ransom, Cattle rustling, and Boko Haram insurgency.

He also revealed some of the measures taken by President Bola Tinubu's government to address the challenges.

In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor of the University thanked the National Security Adviser for the honour done to the University.

He also highlighted some of the contributions of the University towards attaining peace and development in the region and Nigeria at large



Malam Nuhu Ribadu delivering the Convocation Lecture

“
**This is my first official outing since my
 appointment as the National Security Adviser.
 I want this to be on record**
 ”

Convocation Lecture: Ribadu Explains Why Northerners Hold Key Offices in Tinubu's Govt.



Chairman Convocation Lecture & Former Nigerian Permanent Representative to United Nations, Prof. Tijjani M. Bande, GCON, making his remarks, while Secretary to the Sokoto State Government & Representative of the Governor, Muhammad Bello Sifawa (2nd from right); and Convocation Lecturer & National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu (1st from right) listen with keen interest

The National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu on Thursday said President Bola Tinubu deliberately appointed northerners into key offices because he wanted all the problems in the region squarely addressed.

Delivering lecture on "Navigating The Maze: Addressing Multi-Dimensional Insecurity Challenges In Northern Nigeria" as part of the activities marking the 38,39,40 and 41st combined convocation of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, he lamented that the North was facing myriad of challenges,

ranging from insecurity to out-of-school children, among others.

He added that, the poverty index in the region was alarming.

"At the time he (Tinubu) was forming this government, he said the North was very dear to his heart that he would do everything to address its challenges.

"This is why he appointed northerners into key offices. He handed over security and Defence to the North. He gave us both Ministers for Agriculture and Education. He also gave us Ministers of Health and Foreign Affairs in his quest to turn around the fortune of the region.

"He gave us a chance. Now the rest is on us, we northerners. Let's put our differences aside and work for the betterment of our region and Nigeria," he said.

On the insecurity, he said the present government had achieved a lot citing some bandits' leaders who were recently killed by security operatives, and tens of thousands of kidnapped victims that were rescued without paying a dime.

"As I am talking to you, there is no known case of student abduction of students that is unresolved anywhere in the country. And where are bandits'

leaders like Ali Kawaje, Boderi, Damina, and Dangote. They have all been eliminated.

"In the past, we have had cases of organised terrorism attacks by insurgent groups like their attacks on our train, military formations, or churches. Since we got in, there has not been anything like that.

"And go to Niger Delta, it is peaceful today. In the East people were being stopped and killed, there were over 40 police stations shut down but all of them are now functional. All these changes happened because we work.

"We will continue to work. We are not jokers. We are serious and in Sha Allah Nigeria will see the difference," he said.

“
This sort of approach is a core focus of the Renewed Hope Agenda. Its initiatives include infrastructural development, job creation, education and healthcare provision as well as efforts to tackle poverty and inequality
 ”

According to Ribadu, Tinubu's government was adopting counterinsurgency strategies aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the local population, isolating insurgents from their support bases and preventing the recruitment of new members.

"These strategies involve engaging with communities, providing humanitarian assistance and promoting reconciliation and deradicalization programme.

"This sort of approach is a core focus of the Renewed Hope Agenda. Its initiatives include infrastructural development, job creation, education and healthcare provision as well as efforts to tackle poverty and inequality," he said.



A cross section of dignitaries during the Convocation Lecture

Convocation Lecture: Illiteracy Makes Northern Region Susceptible Says Ribadu

The National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, says Mass Illiteracy makes youth in the Northern Nigeria to be susceptible to deceivers who recruit them to instigate insecurity in the region.

Ribadu made the disclosure at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, where he delivered a Convocation lecture on the theme: "Navigating the Maze: Addressing Multi -Dimensional Insecurity Challenges in Northern Nigeria".

He noted that educational disparities between the region and other parts of the Nigeria play a significant role in the dynamics of radicalization witnessed in the region.

He explained that the educational gap in the region not only restricted economic opportunities but fuels grievances and heightens susceptibility to extremist ideologies.

"Groups such as Boko Haram and other extremists exploit these vulnerabilities by offering alternative narratives that promise belonging, purpose, and at times financial benefits for coercion," he stated.

Ribadu said it is to help the North address some of these challenges that President Bola Tinubu decided to handover leadership of the region to northerners.

"He appointed northerners to head Security and Defence. He gave us both Ministers of Agriculture and Education. The Minister of Health is from the North. It is for us to make the best of it."

To address this menace the former EFCC boss said there is need to bridge the gap in school enrollment which he said is critical in countering radicalization and fostering a more



From Right: Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR; National Security Adviser & Convocation Lecturer, Malam Nuhu Ribadu; Former Nigerian Permanent Representative to United Nations & Chairman Convocation Lecture, Prof. Tijjani M. Bande, GCON; and Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Bilbis observing the National Anthem

stable and prosperous environment.

According to Ribadu, besides Illiteracy, proliferation of small arms, corruption and injustice are also responsible for insecurity.

He maintained that despite laws against unauthorized arms possession, the circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) is rampant, fueling violence.

On the issue of farmers/herders clashes, he explained that climatic factors and competition for scarce farming and grazing lands contribute to escalation of the crises.

He admitted that Nigerian security agencies are overstretched due to limited number of security personnel in the country.

He also disclosed that the administration had improved security in the Niger Delta region, which helped in boosting oil production in the region.

He warned criminals to have a rethink as government would not fold its arms to allow any disgruntled element disturbing the peace of the nation.

On the issue of economy, the NSA said the President responded in a timely and responsive manner by giving instructions for the crash of the Dollar with a view to crashing the price of essential products in the market.

He further explained that steps taken by the President would continue to improve the life of average Nigerians.

“

Groups such as Boko Haram and other extremists exploit these vulnerabilities by offering alternative narratives that promise belonging, purpose, and at times financial benefits for coercion

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Be Resilient in The Face of Adversity - Bilbis Advises UDUS' Graduates

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Professor Lawal Bilbis has advised graduating students of the University to be resilient in the face of adversity.

He also advised them to embrace diversity and inclusion as well as make a positive impact in their respective communities.

"Because life is full of ups and downs, and you will inevitably encounter obstacles along the way. Remember that, adversity is not a sign of weakness but an opportunity for growth.

"Stay resilient, persevere in the face of challenges and maintain a positive outlook even in the darkest of time," he counseled.

Bilbis explained that, diversity was not just a buzzword but a fundamental aspect of our society and key to a successful life.

"Embrace diversity in all its forms-cultural, ethnic, religious and ideological. Seek to understand perspectives that differ from your own and cultivate an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

"As graduates of Danfodiyo University you carry with you the responsibility to make a positive difference in your respective communities, our nation and the world over.

"Whether it be through your chosen career path, community services, or advocacy efforts, strive to leave a lasting impact on the lives of others and contribute to the betterment of society.

"Dear graduands, know that we have equipped you with all these



Prof. Lawal Bilbis making his speech

“

Embrace diversity in all its forms-cultural, ethnic, religious and ideological. Seek to understand perspectives that differ from your own and cultivate an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected

”

attributes. So go out there and demonstrate to the world that you are "Danfodites", he said.

The Vice Chancellor noted that, the University was embracing a paradigm shift towards entrepreneurship development across all disciplines embedded within our curriculum.

This strategic move, he explained was a response to the evolving global landscape and labour market dynamics, fuels by the rapid advancement in new technologies.

"We aim to equip our students with the essential skills, mind-set, and resources to navigate and thrive in today's dynamic world by integrating entrepreneurship education into our academic programmes," he explained.

Bilbis said that, their goal was to nurture a generation of innovative thinkers and problem solvers who were not only well prepared for traditional employment but also empowered to create their own opportunities and drive positive change in society.

"We are committed to providing our students with the support and guidance they need to unleash their full potentials.

"Together, we will harness the power of innovation to shape a b fighter future for generations to come.

"I invite you all to join and support the initiative, as we embark on this journey beyond award of certificate towards entrepreneurship development," he said.

I'm Filled with Profound Sense of Gratitude, Humility - Bilbis Says as UDUS Holds Last Convocation under His Watch



From Left: Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Bilbis; Representative of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman; Sokoto State Governor, His Excellency, Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto; Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR; and Emir of Kano, His Highness, Alh. Aminu Ado Bayero, CFR observing the National Anthem at the Combined Convocation Ceremony

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Professor Lawal Bilbis said he was filled with all sense of gratitude and humility as the university held its last convocation under his watch.

Bilbis' tenure would expire in the next few months having been appointed in 2019.

"I stand before you today on the occasion of both my inaugural and final convocation ceremony as Vice Chancellor of this esteemed institution.

"I am filled with a profound

sense of gratitude and humility. Allow me to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. President, our revered Visitor to the University, for entrusting me with the privilege to serve my country in this capacity. It has been an honour beyond measure," he said.

Bilbis expressed his deep appreciation to the Minister of Education, Minister of State and the Permanent Secretary as well as Directors in the Ministry for always attending to their numerous requests with dispatch.

He also thanked the National University Commission, the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund for their continuous support to the University.

"To the entire University community, I owe a debt of gratitude that words alone cannot express.

"Your steadfast support and cooperation, has been the cornerstone of our success. I am deeply indebted to each and every one of you for your dedication and tireless efforts in advancing the cause of our beloved University.

Why Holding 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st Combined Convocation - VC, Bilbis



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Bilbis, responding to questions from journalists

The Vice Chancellor of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Professor Lawal Bilbis has explained why the University was holding four convocations at the same.

Although he said there was no problem having a combined convocation because it did not violate any established rules, he however explained that, the four convocation would hold same time for some reasons.

It would be recalled that, Bilbis was appointed Vice Chancellor of the university in July, 2019 and since then there was no convocation until last Saturday when the 38,39,40 and 41st combined convocation was held.

Responding to a question during the pre-convocation press conference

held at the Senate Chambers, Ahmadu Bello House in April, 15, he reminisced that, shortly after assuming office as the Vice Chancellor, the entire country was locked down due to Corona Virus pandemic.

"So all the schools, including universities, were shut down throughout the lock down period which lasted for almost one year.

"When we wanted to hold our convocation in 2021 at the time the schools were opened and academic activities resumed there was indefinite strike by the Academic Staff Union which grounded academic activities in the universities for some months.

"This is the reason why we could not hold convocation before now," he further explained.

Professor Bilbis noted that, a convocation ceremony was a moment of celebration because it allowed them to honour and celebrate the academic accomplishments of students who have successfully completed their studies.

On the significance of convocation, he said "it symbolizes the finale of students' academic journey and their transition into the professional world fully prepared to make their mark in their respective fields.

"It publicly acknowledges their achievements and potentials, instilling confidence, a sense of discipline and dignity of labour.

"It epitomizes a purposeful coming together of faculties, departments, families and friends and above all, graduates to commemorate a significant milestone.

"It is an opportunity to create a lasting memory, broaden horizon and solidify relationship. And speeches delivered during a convocation ceremony provide graduates with words of wisdom, encouragement, motivation and inspiration as they begin their professional career," he said

The Vice Chancellor however, gave the breakdown of the activities lined up to mark the ceremony which include, Convocation Debate and Drama.

Others as highlighted by Professor Bilbis include, novelty match between staff and students of the university; convocation lecture to be delivered by the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; and awards of certificates and diplomas as well as Bachelor degrees.

There would also be a convocation dinner, convocation grand finale, presentation of prizes and conferments of honorary degrees to some prominent Nigerians.

Tinubu, Aliyu, Sultan, Others Attend UDUS' Combined Convocation

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto on Saturday held its 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Combined Convocation.

The ceremony which held at the main campus of the university in Kwankwalawa was attended by high profiled personalities from all walks of life, including the number one citizen and Visitor to the University, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu who was ably represented by the Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Mamman.

Other dignitaries at the event, were the Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Barrister Bello Goronyo, Governor Ahmed Aliyu of Sokoto State and the Deputy Governor of Kebbi state, the Speaker of the Sokoto State House of Assembly, Tukur Bala Bodinga and the Chancellor of the University and Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar and Emirs of Kano and Bichi also graced the occasion.

In his remarks, President Tinubu commended the management and staff of the university for their hardwork, dedication and resourcefulness in

nurturing their graduates through their various programmes.

The President, particularly commended the Vice Chancellor of the University for securing N1 billion grant for researches in the University.

"This is the way to go. Research is what makes university a topmost institution not the number of students.

"I encourage this University to continue to strengthen their research capacities," he said.

He also noted with delight the award of recognition on three scholars of the university who had made a groundbreaking researches, encouraging the university to ensure the outcome of the researches were published on their bulletins and national newspapers for the people to know what they were doing.

The Visitor further called on the private sector to invest in research and teaching for the development of higher education in Nigeria.

He appreciated the contribution of the Chancellor of the University which he said has promoted the status of the university as a notable institution of higher learning in Nigeria.

He recognized and appreciated

the fatherly role of the Sultan in promoting peace and harmony in the country.

"I am also delighted to know about the excellent relationship the university has with the Sokoto state government and the state government's significant contribution to the various needs of the university.

"This collaboration is indeed a step in the right direction," he added.

The President prayed Allah to guide the graduates in their chosen disciplines.

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis, expressed profound gratitude to the President for the opportunity to serve his country in this capacity.

He also thanked the governments of Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano and Niger states for their sustained support to the university.

He also thanked the Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar for his guidance and encouragement.

Bilbis however, appealed to the federal government to complete the University's perimeter fencing and the relocation of the villages in the main campus of the University.



From Left: Representative of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman; Sokoto State Governor, His Excellency, Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto; and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR;

Danfodiyo Honours Two Retired Lecturers with Emeritus Status

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto has conferred Emeritus Professors on two of its retired lecturers.

The lecturers were Professor Hamidu Ahmed, a medical practitioner and academic and Professor Abubakar Sani Sambo who was the former Director

General of the Energy Commission of Nigeria.

The duo were honoured during the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st combined convocation of the University.

Ahmed was a pediatric Professor who impacted positively on the lives of so many people.

According to his citation, he has been practicing, teaching and researching in medicine for 46 years, 43 of which were spent in General Pediatrics and pediatric Neurology. He rose to the rank of Professor for the past 24 years.

An old student of Nagarta College, Sokoto and Federal Government College, Warri, Ahmed attended Kharkov State University and Kiev Medical Institute between 1972 and 1978. He also attended University of Liverpool in 1988 and did his Residency training in pediatrics at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Kaduna State from 1981 to 1989.

He passed both the part one and part two FMC Pediatrics Examinations at first attempts and also obtained Diploma in Tropical Hygiene and a Doctoral degree in medicine at the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria as well as fellowship of the Academic of Medical Specialties.

The celebrant has supervised to completion seven PhD theses and 25 part two fellowship dissertations. He served as examiner to many medical schools in Nigeria.

Ahmed has published over 100 papers in general paediatrics in various journals at national and international levels and has been a fellow to various scientific



Prof. Hamidu Ahmed

associations within and outside the country.

He is also the recipient of the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) and Distinguished Merit Award of the Nigerian Society of Neurological Science.

On his part, Professor Sambo is a Mechanical Engineer who graduated from Ahmadu Bello University with first class honour in 1979.

In 1983, he obtained his DPhil degree also in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

Sambo started his working career at Bayero University, Kano as a Graduate Assistant in 1980 and rose to become a Senior Lecturer in 1987. In 1989, he joined Usmanu Danfodiyo University,

Sokoto as Reader (Associate Professor) in Energy Studies and Director of the Sokoto Energy Research Centre of the University.

In 1991, he was appointed Professor of Energy Studies. He served as Vice Chancellor of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi between 1995 and 2004. He also served briefly as the pioneer Vice Chancellor of Kaduna State University before his appointment as the Director General of Energy Commission.

During his tenure at the Commission, new energy research centres were set up at Bauchi, Benin City, Ilorin and Lagos in addition to two new departments established at the head office.

Sambo has supervised 14 PhD and 10 master's degrees candidates to successful

completion and has more than 200 published articles to his credit.

Sambo who served as the Vice Chairman for Africa of the World Energy Council from 2007 to 2013 was appointed Special Adviser to President Goodluck Jonathan in 2011. He is a recipient of two national award, including the National Productivity Order of Merit (NPOM) in 1997 and the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) in 2000.

Although he retired from the services of the University in April, 2024, he expressed readiness to continue undertaking research projects with staff of the faculty of Engineering and Environmental Design and other units of the university, especially supervision of PhD projects.



Professor Abubakar Sani Sambo (2nd from left), being presented with the Emeritus certificate

UDUS Confers Honorary Degrees on Emir of Bichi, Zangon-Daura, Falola, Malam Boyi

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto has conferred honorary doctorate degrees on some prominent Nigerians for their outstanding contributions to humanity and national development.

The awardees include the Emir of Bichi, Alhaji Nasir Ado Bayero who bagged an honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration (Honoris Causa).

Briefs on the awardees

Nasir is the son of the 13th Fulani Emir of Kano, late Ado Bayero.

Born on the 2nd of February, 1964, Nasir had his primary and secondary education in Kano before proceeding to University of Maiduguri where he obtained a degree in Mass Communication. He also attended Harvard Business School's Executive programme and obtained a diploma in German language from the Goethe Institute in Berlin, Germany.

The Emir had worked in many places, including Continental Merchant Bank Nigeria; Costal Corporation (Oil and Gas) Houston, Texas and Hamlet Investment, London as well as at the presidency (Abuja) as Administrative Officer in Executive Council Secretariat.

He is the incumbent Chairman, board of Directors of Pinnacle Oil and Gas, operators of the most modern oil terminal at Lekki Export Processing zone and Intel's Services Nigeria Limited.

He is also the Chairman, Enclo Limited, a Nigerian company providing Currency Operations support services and Security Documents design and printing solutions to the Central Bank of Nigeria and other financial institutions among others.

Emir Bayero is also a recipient of national honour of the Officer of the Federal Republic, OFR. Because of his outstanding roles in the private sector, particularly in the oil industry.

Others were the former Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Alhaji Sani Zangon Daura who was awarded with Doctor of Science (D.Sc); Professor Toyin Falola who bagged Doctor of Letters (D.Litts) and Sheikh Malam Muhammadu Bello Na-Malam Boyi, a renown Islamic scholars who was conferred with honorary degree of Doctor Letters (D.Litts).



The Emir of Bichi, Alh. Nasir Ado Bayero (left) being presented with honorary degree of Doctor of Business Administration (Honoris Causa)

On his part, the former Minister, Sani Zangon Daura, a holder of traditional title of Dan Masanin Daura and recipient of national honour of Commander of the Order of Niger, CON, was a seasoned administrator and astute politician who curved a niche in teaching profession.

Born in 1938 at Zangon Daura in Zango Local Government Area of Katsina state, the celebrant attended elementary school in Zangon Daura before proceeding to Katsina Middle School. He also attended School for Arabic Studies, Kano between 1953 and 1963. He also attended University Tutorial College, Russel Square, London from 1961 to 1963.

The awardee taught in various schools in Daura, Dutsinma and Kano before being employed as an

Administrative Officer by the defunct Northern Nigeria regional government in June, 1966 and posted to the Ministry of Education, Kaduna.

Zangon-Daura rose through the ranks up to Assistant District Officer, serving at the then Ilorin Province and Borgu division until 1968 when he was appointed Commissioner of Information, Adult Education and Public Enlightenment of the North Central state. In 1972 he was redeployed to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the position he held until 1975 when he became caretaker chairman of Daura local government.

Zangon-Daura served as Director and chairman of many organizations, notable among them were Impresit Bakalori; National Institute of Water Resources, Federal Polytechnic,

Bauchi among others.

After retiring from active politics, the awardee founded a charitable organization named "Maryam Endowment Fund" which has been awarding scholarship to teeming youth to acquire higher education and supporting unemployed youth blessed with talents.

Professor Falola, a global scholar had authored, co-authored and edited no fewer than 200 books and has many entries in the encyclopedia.

He was born in 1950, he attended his elementary and secondary schools in the western part of Nigeria. He obtained his degree in History from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

After a brief sojourn at the Oyo state public service commission in 1977, he was considered for direct admission into a PhD program in the department of History of his alma mata after being employed as a graduate assistant. He further earned a Doctorate degree in African Studies at University of Ibadan in 2020.

Falola rose through the ranks to the full professorial chair in 1988. Thereafter, he served as a senior Research Fellow and Project Coordinator (Oral Documentation) Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Lagos between 1988 and 1989. He was also a Smuts fellow at the University of Cambridge, England. Falola secured full-time and adjunct positions in many universities across the globe.

Falola has to his credit over 100 journal articles across various credible outlets and bagged several honorary degrees and traditional titles which include Nii Kpani Ashaabla, Adabraka Otukpai palace, Accra in Ghana among others.

Malam Bello Na-Malam Boyi, a renown Islamic scholar of international repute who authored several books was born in Sokoto in 1968. He memorized the Holy Quran and its Tafsir (translation) at the age of 24. Na-Malam Boyi has been teaching, preaching and mentoring students who came from different parts of the country.

His centre for Qur'anic recitation and Islamic Studies at Hubbaren Shehu area has so far produced about 500 memorizers of the Glorious Quran. He is also the Chief Imam of Imam Al-Shadibi Juma'at mosque at Nakasari area.



Former Minister of Agriculture and Environment, Alh. Sani Zangon Daura (3rd from right), receiving honorary degree award of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)



Professor Toyin Falola (2nd from left), being presented with Doctor of Letters (D.Litts) honorary degree



Doctor of Letters (D.Litts) honorary degree award being presented to Malam Muhammadu Bello Na-Malam Boyi (3rd from right)

Convocation: Tinubu Congratulates UDUS' Scholars Who Won Awards Over Ground Breaking Researches



Honourable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Mamman, delivering President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's convocation address

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has congratulated three lecturers of Usmanu Danfodiyo University who recently won awards over their groundbreaking researches.

The lecturers were Dr. Mustapha Umar Imam, who won the University Research Award Winners Outstanding Researcher (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics ISTEM) and Professor Jimoh Amzat who won Outstanding Researcher (Arts and Humanities).

Others include Dr Amina Jega

Yusuf who won Outstanding Female Researcher; Dr Kazeem Olalekan Aremu who won an Outstanding Early Career Researcher award and Dr Mohammed Yahya who won Highest Research Grant Award.

Tinubu however, tasked the University to ensure the outcome of the researches were published on its bulletin and national newspapers for the public to know what they have been doing.

According to President Tinubu, relevant researches were what made University topmost institution not its number of students.

History of the Awards

Recognizing that a university's impact is fundamentally measured by its adeptness in the spheres of knowledge creation, dissemination, and application, a pivotal role has been ascribed to impactful research as the bedrock of academic pursuits, for it is within research that new knowledge is birthed. Consequently, the University, in 2023 introduced an intervention designed to inspire the faculty's commitment to driving innovative research undertakings, which is believed to serve as catalysts for the advancement of both the Institution and the nation. These initiatives will also serve as indispensable tools for enhancing professional development of members of staff.

This intervention encompasses two distinct award categories: the Vice-Chancellor's category, encompassing the entire university, and the Dean's distinction awards, tailored for each faculty.

The intervention will encompass seven distinguished awards in each category, as outlined below:

- i. Outstanding Researcher (STEM)
- ii. Outstanding Researcher (Arts & Humanities)
- iii. Outstanding Researcher (Female)
- iv. Outstanding Early Career Researcher (Male)
- v. Outstanding Early Career Researcher (Female)
- vi. Best Ph.D. Thesis
- vii. Highest Grant Awardee
- viii. Best Research Group
- ix. Outstanding Research Discovery

BRIEF ON THE AWARDEES

Outstanding Researcher (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM]):
DR MUSTAPHA UMAR IMAM



Mustapha Umar Imam has a medical degree from Bayero University Kano and a PhD in molecular biotechnology from Universiti Putra Malaysia, where he also worked as a postdoctoral research fellow (2013-2015). He was an associate professor of nutritional biochemistry at Zhengzhou University China (2016-2019) before joining Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto as an associate professor of medical biochemistry. His research interests include preventive medicine, chronic non-communicable diseases, epigenetics and micronutrient deficiencies. He is currently the Director of the Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Training at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, and the university's grants manager. He has been named among the world's top 2% scientists by Elsevier/Stanford University ranking for four consecutive years (2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022).

Outstanding Researcher (Arts and Humanities):
PROF JIMOH AMZAT



Jimoh Amzat holds a BSc (Sociology) from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, MSc and PhD from University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and a joint Master of Bioethics from Katholieke Universiteit (Leuven, Belgium); Radboud University (Nijmegen, Holland); and University of Padua (Padua, Italy). He was a recipient of Erasmus Mundus scholarship (Europe) (both as a graduate student and a visiting scholar) and Georg Forster postdoctoral fellowship (Germany). He has served as a guest lecturer at the University of Bielefeld (Germany) and EHESP School of Public Health (Rennes, France). His books (with Oliver Razum) include, *Medical Sociology in Africa* (Springer: 2014) and *Towards a Sociology of Health Discourse in Africa* (Springer: 2018). His recent book (also with Oliver Razum), *Globalization, health and the Global South: A critical approach* (Routledge, 2022) presents the intricate connection between globalization and health, setting a significant pace in Global Health. He is currently a Professor at the Department of Sociology, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), Nigeria, and a Senior Research Associate at the Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg, South Africa and Honorary Fellow of Teesside University, UK.

BRIEF ON THE AWARDEES

Outstanding Female Researcher:
DR AMINA JEGA YUSUF



Dr. Amina Jega Yusuf earned a Bachelor of Science degree in applied chemistry from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto in 2010, before pursuing both her Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, completing them in 2014 and 2018, respectively. Currently affiliated with the Department of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Amina's primary research focus lies in natural product chemistry and drug discovery. Her work centers on the isolation, characterization, and assessment of pharmacological activities of bioactive compounds sourced from natural origins with interest in snakebite, malaria and cancer. Amina has an extensive publication record with over 80 journal articles and has over 70 conference papers in both national and international platforms. She has secured 14 grants and garnered numerous accolades for her contributions to the field. She is also an editorial member of several academic journals.

Outstanding Early Career Researcher:
DR KAZEEM OLALEKAN AREMU



Dr. Aremu earned a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics with First Class Honours from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS) and an M.Sc. degree from the University of Ibadan in 2011 and 2016, respectively. He Obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban, South Africa in a remarkable three-year duration (Jan 2018 – Dec, 2020). Dr. Aremu joined the service of UDUS as a Graduate Assistant in March, 2014. Presently, he is a senior lecturer in the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Physical and Computing Sciences, UDUS. He has authored and co-authored over seventy (70) research articles in reputable journals indexed in scopus or web of science. His research interests are in fixed point theory, nonlinear and convex optimization theory, and computational graph theory using machine learning approaches.

BRIEF ON THE AWARDEES

Highest Research Grant Award: DR MOHAMMED YAHAYA



Mohammed Yahaya, a Reader (Associate Professor) and Honorary Consultant Clinical Microbiologist, is a distinguished Fellow of the West African College of Physicians. He is a versatile scholar with over 100 publications in top-tier journals, whose research focuses on infectious diseases epidemiology, routine immunization, and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Yahaya has supported Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) in different roles, most notably as the team lead during the COVID-19 response. This has earned him numerous awards and grants from both local and international bodies. He was part of the team that established the existence of Dengue fever and West Nile Virus in Sokoto in 2016. Dr Mohammed Yahaya has held various administrative positions within and outside the University and has several supervised Masters, PhDs and Fellowship Candidates.

Best Research Group: Antioxidant Research Group

The Antioxidant Research Group was formed in 2003, as a group of scientists/researchers with interest in understanding the role of oxidative stress and inflammation in the pathogenesis of chronic metabolic diseases. The research interest of the Group covers the biochemical basis and functional outcomes of antioxidants, including small molecules, nutraceutical and related phytochemicals, and their roles in health promotion, disease prevention and management of cardiovascular, neurodegenerative, sickle cell anaemia, infertility, and infectious diseases.

The Group uses both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches and adopts novel and efficient analytical, synthetic, and computational methods. The group is domiciled in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with members

found in Faculties of Chemical and Life Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Veterinary Medicine and College of Health Sciences. It maintains collaborations with researchers within and outside Nigeria. The team leadership from inception are Prof. L.S. Bilbis (2003 -2013); Prof Yusuf Saidu (2013 - 2019); and Prof A.Y. Abbas (2019 to date).

The Team has attracted research grants from organizations such as the Nestle Foundation, Lausanne, Switzerland, International Foundation for Science, Stockholm Sweden, Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Abuja, and Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Abuja. The Team has three patents and several publications to its credit.



A group photograph of the Best Antioxidant Research Group

VC Honours Winners of UDUS IT-Compete at Combined Convocation Ceremony

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Professor L. S. Bilbis, proudly honoured the outstanding winners of the 2nd UDUS IT-Compete during the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Combined Convocation Ceremony of the University. UDUS IT-Compete stands as a testament to the university's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) among its students.

The inaugural competition, held in 2022, focused on the development of social media applications to support both social networking and learning, spurred by the necessity for local alternatives to social media platforms such as Twitter (now X) following pertinent events. A multitude of captivating submissions were received from students across various faculties and departments, leading to the recognition of three exceptional applications securing the top positions.

The resounding success of the first UDUS IT-Compete instilled a sense of confidence and competitiveness among the students, paving the way for remarkable achievements. Notably, a team from this competition clinched the top spot in a national software development contest organised by Microsoft, Sterling Bank, and TED Tech Hub,



The Vice Chancellor, Professor L. S. Bilbis addressing the audience at the 2nd UDUS IT-Compete grand finale held on April 17, 2024

underscoring the calibre of talent nurtured within the university. Moreover, the competition played a pivotal role in ingraining software development and ICT into the university's culture, catalysing increased student interest and fostering prospects for enhanced employability and self-reliance.

Building on the triumphs of the first IT-Compete, the university decided to institutionalize the competition as a series, conducted periodically to continually nurture innovation. A dedicated standing committee was inaugurated to oversee the organisation of subsequent IT-Competes. The second iteration embraced a broader theme and scope, encouraging participants to

innovate freely in addressing local challenges through ICT solutions across various domains including Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, EduTech, HealthTech, and more.

The rigorous selection process for the second IT-Compete encompassed multiple stages, culminating in a grand finale held on April 17, 2024, graced by esteemed dignitaries including the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation & Development), Directors of ICT and RI&D, and distinguished guests.

During the convocation ceremony, the Vice Chancellor fulfilled his commitment by recognizing and honouring the

exceptional performance of the IT-Compete winners alongside other distinguished prize recipients. The winning teams and their remarkable innovations are as follows:

First Position

Team Web Wizards: Developed UDUSXpress, an e-transport App facilitating cashless commuting within UDUS. Team Members:

- Abdullahi Musa, College of Health Sciences
- Abdurrahman Sani, College of Health Sciences
- Hassan Muhammad Magaji, College of Health Sciences
- Hussaini Muhammad Magaji, College of Health Sciences.

Second Position

Team Schovela: Developed an e-learning App facilitating seamless resource sharing among students.

Team Members:

- Tijjani Shehu Ahmed, Department of Computer Science
- Femi Fatokun, Department of Computer Science
- Raji Toheed Ishola, Department of Computer Science.

Third Position

Team CyberXpert: Developed an AI speech recognition and command execution system. Team Member:

- Abubakar Nuraini, Department of Science and Vocational Education.

In addition to accolades, the university pledges support for the scalable development and commercialisation of these innovative products, further fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and technological advancement.



Permanent Secretary, MIDE Sokoto State, Dr. Nasir Daniya given awards to the winners of 1st position of the 2nd UDUS IT-Compete



Director RI&D, Professor A.B. Muhammad giving awards to second position of the 2nd UDUS IT-Compete, Team Schovela



A cross-section of participants, officials, and invited guests at the 2nd UDUS IT-Compete grand finale

Convocation: UDUS Best Graduating Students go Home with Cash, Other Prizes

The students of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto that graduated with first class in the last four years have received different kind of prizes at the just concluded 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st Combined Convocation.

The beneficiary students include the overall best graduating students and those rated the best performing students in their faculties or departments.

Moreover, the best behaved students were also not left out as they received cash gifts.

The prizes were donated by private individuals, lecturers and corporate bodies.

For instance, the best all round student for 2018/2019, Adeyi Mercy Enyo-Ojo received the sum of N50,000 and N100,000 as gifts from the Vice Chancellor and the former Pro-Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis and Alhaji Bilya Sanda respectively.

The overall best behaved student, Yusuf Rukayya Shehu went home with N50,000 from



Registrar, Mal. Nurudeen Abubakar Belko announcing the commencement of the convocation proceedings

“
The age-long tradition was meant to encourage undergraduate students to work harder in order to win prizes during their graduation ceremony
”

the Chancellor of the University and Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu.

Additionally, the best all round male student, Muhammad Kolache Umar was gifted N250,000 by the Global Chapter of UDUS' Alumni Association.

There are other prizes for the best graduating students in Hausa, Arabic, Islamic Studies and Petroleum Chemistry and Biochemistry from individual lecturers, PTDF, families of deceased academics like Professor A.A. Gwandu among others.

The same gestures had been extended to the best graduating students in 2019-2020/2020-2021/ 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years respectively.

The Vice Chancellor of the institution, Professor Bilbis noted that, the gesture was meant to appreciate the hard work, resilience and commitment during their educational pursuit.

He added that, the age-long tradition was meant to encourage undergraduate students to work harder in order to win prizes during their graduation ceremony.

Convocation: Bilbis Pleads with FG to Hasten Completion of Perimeter Fence, Villages' Relocation

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Professor Lawal Bilbis has said that, the unique geographical setting of the University posed a significant security threat now that tertiary institutions became soft targets for bandits.

He made the disclosure during their 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st Combined Convocation.

"As you have witnessed today, the university's permanent site is situated approximately 15 kilometers from the city centre.

"In addition, the campus has a landmass covering 5,630 hectares, nestled amidst approximately 60 villages and hamlets with a collective population of about 200,000 people.

"This unique geographical



Vice Chancellor, Professor Lawal Bilbis

setting poses a significant security threat, as tertiary institutions increasingly become soft targets for criminal activities such as banditry and kidnapping.

"Challenges posed by external security threats emanating from surrounding communities, including violent political conflicts, thefts, kidnapping and banditry attacks.

"These incidents, often alarming and on the rise, encroach dangerously close to our students' hall of residence and staff residential areas and require the urgent need for enhanced security measures," he said.

Bilbis appealed for the completion of the University's perimeter fencing and the relocation of villages inside the University area.



A section of the completed University perimeter fence

Sokoto Govt to Construct Students Hostel, Boreholes for Danfodiyo University



Sokoto State Governor, His Excellency, Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto making his speech

The Sokoto state government would construct a hostel accommodation and more boreholes for the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

Governor Ahmed Aliyu disclosed this during the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Combined Convocation of the University.

"Let me take this opportunity to announce to the University community of my administration's resolve to build a befitting Hostel Accommodation, for the University in my own little way of giving back to the institution.

"I therefore direct the State Ministry of Works and Transport to immediately commence this process so that we can actualize the project in no distant future," the Governor said.

The Governor who is also an alumnus of the university, promised to visit his former Faculty of Management Sciences in the next two weeks for a discussion on how best to assist it.

Aliyu noted that, the university had continued to remain one of the best educational institutions in the

country because it did not compromise learning and educational standard.

"I am indeed very proud to have passed through this great institution, which has contributed immensely to the socio-economic and political development of this country, as many of our great leaders have passed through this institution," he added.

He acknowledged the contributions of the institution to the educational development of the dear state, and manpower development in particular.

He reiterated his administration's readiness to partner with the University in all areas of development such as Renewable Energy, Security and Education among others so that the State could benefit from the expertise of its highly respected intellectuals that the institution was blessed with.

I am indeed very proud to have passed through this great institution, which has contributed immensely to the socio-economic and political development of this country

Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto embarks on Talent Search Project

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Lawal Suleman Bilbis announced during the Convocation that the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto has established a Committee on Innovation, Technology Incubation and Commercialization to fish out talents not only within the University but within the larger society. UDUS is one of the leading universities in the country, committed to developing the talents and potentials of its students and the Nigerian populace. In line with this vision, the University had embarked on a project to identify, nurture and showcase exceptional talents from within the University community and across the nation. The objective of this project was to provide a platform for the discovery, mentorship and empowerment of young Nigerians with outstanding skills, creativity and entrepreneurial skills.

The project had the following key components:

- 1. Talent Identification and Selection:**
 - i. identifying and selecting talented individuals from the University and across Nigeria.
 - ii. reach a wide pool of potential participants.
- 2. Mentorship and Capacity Building:**
 - i. Provide mentorship, training and support to the selected talents to enhance their skills and prepare them for the next level.
 - ii. Facilitate access to relevant industry experts, successful entrepreneurs and professionals who can share their knowledge and experiences.
- 3. Funding and Resource Mobilization:**
 - i. Mobilize financial and material resources to support the selected talents through scholarships, seed funding, equipment, and other forms of assistance.
 - ii. Explore opportunities for scholarship awards, entrepreneurship grants, and investment in innovative ideas.
- 4. Visibility and Showcasing:**
 - i. Collaborate on marketing and communication strategies to create awareness and recognition for the identified talents.
 - ii. Leverage various platforms to promote the achievements and success stories of the participating individuals.

The University believes that this project will not only benefit the University and the selected talents but also contribute to the broader goal of nurturing and empowering the next generation of Nigerian leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs.

The Committee charged with the task of fishing out talents, according to the Vice Chancellor, was inaugurated on March 31st, 2023, with a clear mandate including but not limited to coordinating the identification, development, and commercialization of innovative ideas and technologies to foster economic growth. The Committee was tasked with leading the University's innovation and commercialization strategies, acting as a vital link between researchers, research groups, and relevant national and international intellectual property regulatory bodies. Succinctly, the Committee had the following terms of reference:

- i. Coordinate the identification, development and commercialization of innovative ideas and existing/ new technologies to promote economic development and creation;
- ii. Lead the university's innovation and commercialization strategies; and serve as interface between the researchers/ research groups in the university and relevant national and international Intellectual Property (IP) regulatory bodies;

- iii. Coordinate the establishment of pilot plans/projects to demonstrate the feasibility and economic viability of results of inventions/innovations;
- iv. Organise technology incubation/acceleration of new/existing innovative ideas within and outside the university in collaboration with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development
- v. Coordinate the processes of identification of sources of funding for ideas/innovations developed as well as their marketing and commercialisation;
- vi. Create an accessible and searchable database of commercially viable knowledge-based products and innovations emanating from the activities of the Committee;
- vii. Disseminate information on the products and innovative ideas to the public through exhibition, newsletters, policy briefs, university website and other electronic and print media aimed at scaling up and attracting investors and funding; and
- viii. Advise the Vice Chancellor on any other issue(s) relating to the assignment.

A chat with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Development) indicated that the Committee had reached the following height in the prosecution of its mandate:

- i. Formed subcommittees, including Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Arts & Humanities, and Publicity Subcommittees, to ease the discharge of its various responsibilities.
- ii. Initiated a talent search across the northern region to gather innovative ideas and talents for competitive assessment, followed by incubation and development under mutually agreed terms.

Identified Potential Projects

Sequel to the call for submissions of innovative projects, the following were submitted. The projects were demonstrated before the Committee members. The projects were assessed and found to have potentials for further development. These projects were:

- i. Plastic Extrusion Machine Control System
- ii. Online Integrated Payroll Information System
- iii. Idea to Market E-Commerce Hub (IMEH)
- iv. Project Recitex
- v. Biogas Powered Irrigation System (BPIS)
- vi. Fire Retardants Building Technology (FRBT)3
- vii. Development of Ganuwa- Shinge: A Cost-effective Geo-fencing and Geographical Zone tracker for Pastoralist
- viii. Development of a DIY PCR Thermo cycler Equipment: Zafi-Cycler
- ix. Development of a cell-free Biosensor Diagnostic Device: IMAT Diagnostic Device for Molecular detection of Plasmodium falciparum and Salmonella typhi
- x. Solar PV Compact generator
- xi. Circular Top Box Solar Cooker with Multiple Adjustable Reflecting Boosters
- xii. Thermoelectric Powered Air Blower Charcoal stove
- xiii. Hybrid (Active and Passive) Large Scale Solar dryer for Crops and Jerky Meat (Kilishi) Drying Applications

In conclusion, the pivotal role of the the initiative in advancing innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting technology commercialisation within the University community and beyond can not be overemphasized. The Vice Chancellor noted that the next stage is to identify potential partners and sponsors in the effort of identifying, nurturing, and showcasing innovative ideas and technologies with the potential for societal impact and economic growth.

Convocation: UDUS holds Debate, Drama, and Novelty Football Match



Cross Section of Dignitaries at the Debate

The 2024 joint convocation of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto among other things featured students activities among the lined up of convocation activities. However, three major activities; Convocation Debate, Convocation Drama and Convocation Novelty Foot Ball Martch were all partaken by the students of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

Convocation Debate was conducted in the University Auditorium on the 16th of April 2024 by 10:00 am. Two teams of debaters were drawn from the University Debate Club members, where one team proposed while the other opposed. The proposing team had Balogun Bunyamin; a 500 level student of forestry in the Faculty of Agriculture, and Issa

Islamiyyat Oluwabukola; a 400 level student of Law. While the opposing side had Olarenwaju Umar Farouk; a 400 level student of Law, and Latifat Bagidi; also a 400 level student of Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts. The topic of the debate was "Is State Policing the Ultimate Solution to the Insecurity Problems in Nigeria". Very sound arguments were presented by both the proposing and opposing sides in their bid to win.

The debate session was chaired by Professor Shehu Sidi Ibrahim; the Dean, Faculty of Arts of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. In attendance also were the Vice Chancellor, represented by the Dean of Student Affairs – Professor Umar Aliyu, The Deputy Vice Chancellor RI&D, Professor Yusuf Sa'idu, The National

President of Usmanu Danfodiyo University Alumni Association - Dr Buhari Bello Kware, the Chairman Ceremonies Committee of the University, Prof Salisu A. Yakasai, The Director Linkages of the University, Mal. Ahmad Shehu, Dean, Faculty of Education, Professor Yusha'u, among others.

The debate was won by the opposing team led by Olarenwaju Umar Farouk and Lateefat Bagidi, with a cash prize of One hundred thousand naira while the second team had cash prize of fifty thousand naira. Also, best speaker and second best speaker got fifty thousand naira and thirty thousand naira respectively.

On the same day by 8:00pm, a convocation drama was also staged by the Students of English and Literary Studies and Mass

Communication Departments. The drama session featured short plays under the title “We are Women” with a distinct lesson to young married women that it is possible to sort and solve their marital problems without violence.

In attendance during the Drama were the Vice Chancellor, Prof. L. S. Bilbis, DVC (RI&D) Prof Yusuf Sa’idu, Director Academic Planning, Dr K. G. Muhammad, Dean, Student Affairs Division, Prof Umar Aliyu and National President of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Alumni Association among others. The drama featured an interesting characteristic of women imperialism in a polygamous setting as well as feminism.

Another activity in the lined up was the Novelty Football match organized by the sports unit of the student Affairs Division in conjunction with the ceremonies. The novelty football match was played on the April 17, 2024, at the University Stadium by 4:30pm. The match was played between students' football club and that of staff. Although, the game ended on equalizer; 2:2 between the two teams, it was an interesting play where both teams put in their best of skills to win the trophy.

The match was kicked off by the representative of the Vice Chancellor and the Chairman of the occasion, Prof Umar Aliyu. In attendance were Deans of Faculty of Arts, and Education and Extension Services respectively. Also in attendance were the National president of UDU Alumni Association and Chairman Ceremonies committee of the University: Dr Buhari Bello Kware and Prof S. A. Yakasai respectively.



The two teams: Proposing to the right while opposing to the left



The opposing team that won the debate: Olarenwaju Umar Farouk and Lateefat Bagidi



A play in session



A cross section of the Students' Team

UDUS Attracts N2.7b Grants for Researches, Urology Centre

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto has attracted the sum of N2.7 billion grants for researches and the establishment of Urology and Nephrology Centre.

This was disclosed by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis during the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st combined convocation.

Bilbis explained that, their researchers attracted N1.7 billion in the last five years to conduct researches in the areas of peace, national security and infectious diseases.

The other areas include, vaccine development, pharmaceuticals, alternative medicine, genomics, food security and nutrition among others.

The Vice Chancellor noted that, additional grant of N 1 billion was received from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) for the establishment of Centre of Excellence in Urology and Nephrology.

"Currently, the centre has comprehensive surgical procedures with the state-of-the-art equipments for Urethral, Prostate, bladder, ureteric and kidney.

"There are also available in the centre functional equipment for complex inter-sex surgery and kidney transplant surgery," he stated.

According to Bilbis, the centre was poised to start kidney transplant soon in collaboration with University of Mansoura in Egypt and University of Alberta, Canada.

He further revealed that, the university also secured USD230,000 grants from international organization such as MacArthur foundation, Africa-Uninet, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and International Federation of Science.



Some of the facilities at Urology and Nephrology Centre

Prudence: Danfodiyo University Executes 120 Projects with IGR, 60 with Interventions

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto has executed 120 projects with the internally Generated Revenue (IGR) in the last five years.

Another 60 high impact projects were executed through interventions from the federal government and private sectors.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis who disclosed this during the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st combined convocation of the University said some of the projects were completed while some were ongoing.

He however, reeled out some of the projects executed by the Federal Government which include the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine which was executed and furnished at the cost of N68.6 million.

Others include the construction of phase 1 and 2 of the perimeter fence at the cost of N842.4 million; construction and furnishing of 250-seater halls at N275.3 million and construction of Biomolecular Sciences at the cost of N731.3 million.

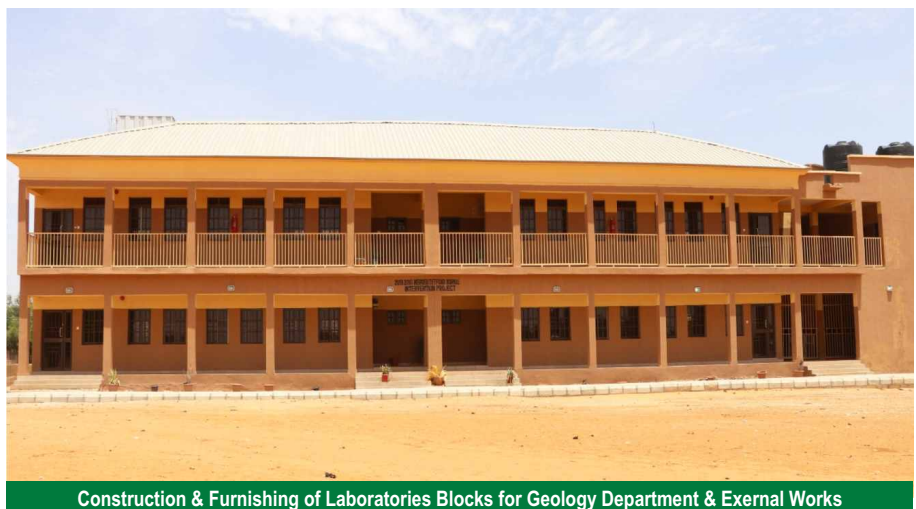
Constructions and furnishings of administrative block for the department of Geology at the cost of N269.8 million; ICT complex at N470



Upgrading of Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine



Construction of Parameter Wall Fence, Main Campus, Phase I



Construction & Furnishing of Laboratories Blocks for Geology Department & Exernal Works

million; offices and laboratories for Facility of Pharmaceutical Sciences and External Works at N230.2million.

Additionally, renovation and furnishing of Examination Hall for Computer based Test and UDUNet ETF Hall at N165.8 million; completion of Medical Students hostel at N155.3 million; constructions of Faculties of Computing Science, Arabic and Islamic Studies as well as Allied Health Sciences (phase 1 each) at the cost of N221.8m, N242.9m and N210.8m respectively.

Completion of Civil Engineering Department (phase 1) at N64.3 million; provision of X-ray based analytical instruments at N109.3m; Upgrade of power supply facilities at N131.1m; and N320.2m as 2019 accreditation expenses.

The projects executed through the private intervention include 2.0MW peak solar power plant by the Rural Electrification Agency; 100-bed students' hostel at N149.5m by Belema-oil; Reactor equipment for research in Heterogenous catalyst for hydrogenation of Benzene at USD47,900 by Petroleum Development Trust Fund (PTDF) among others.

Bilbis said that, the projects had no doubt direct bearing in the delivery of their mandate.



Construction of Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Phase I



Renovation and Furnishing of ETF Examination Hall for Computer Base Test (CBT) Centre



Construction and Furnishing of Students' Hostel at College of Health Sciences













USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



UDUSAA

Vision

To foster a strong and vibrant network of former students, promoting the university's reputation and supporting its continued growth and development.

Mission

To maintain a lifelong connection between the university and its graduates, provide a platform for alumni to contribute to the institution's progress, and cultivate a sense of community and belonging among its members.

Objectives

1. Promote the interests and welfare of UDUS alumni.
2. Support the university's academic, research, and developmental initiatives.
3. Facilitate networking, mentorship, and collaboration among alumni.
4. Contribute to the university's brand image and external relations.
5. Mobilize alumni resources and expertise for the benefit of the university and the community.



Activities & Achievements

1. Organizing annual homecoming events and reunions to bring together alumni from different spheres of life.
2. Uniting former students of the university, facilitating connections, networking opportunities, and the maintenance of relationships with their alma mater.
3. Raising and mobilizing resources to carry our developmental activities to support the University.
4. Creating linkages.

In November 2023, the 7th National Convention was held where a new Executive Committee (EXCO) was inaugurated to oversee the affairs of the association with Dr. Buhari Bello Kware MNIM as National President, leading a team known for their tenacity and dedication to the collective goals and objectives of the association.

The recent combined Convocation Ceremony showcased UDUSAA's active involvement, particularly through hosting significant events such as the Convocation Lecture and Novelty Football Match.

God bless UDUS Alumni Association
God bless Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto
God bless Federal Republic of Nigeria

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