



ISSN 189-1791

MAY 2024

# UDUS

## NEWS BULLETIN

The Official Publication of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto

| [www.udusok.edu.ng](http://www.udusok.edu.ng)



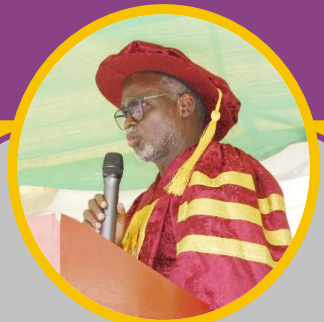
## UDUS Matriculates 3,500 Students for 2023/2024 Academic Year



**Prof. MM Maishanu**  
presents 41st Inaugural  
Lecture on Digital Revolution



**Abstain from Extremism,  
Immoral Acts – UDUS VC advises  
Matriculating Students**



**Bilbis represents Tinubu  
at FUGUS Combined  
Convocation**



### VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY

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

### MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

“To provide quality teaching, research and community service, to deserving persons and communities, under the most peaceful atmosphere and in line with the national policy on education, irrespective of social class, gender, race, nationality and religion; and to ensure that at all times it serves as a centre for pursuit of research and academic excellence”

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### UDUS ANTHEM

Usmanu Danfodiyo  
University, Sokoto  
We are one community  
Dauntless in our search  
For knowledge and its light

O' Lord of creation  
Bless our mission  
With a clear vision  
Far beyond our time and clime

We are the pride of the academia  
Nigeria's most peaceful University

Unmatched in integrity and truth  
Unparalleled in the pursuit of knowledge  
In the humanities, science and technology

We are UDUS!  
Yes, we are!  
Formidable In our stance  
for human freedom,  
dignity and equality

O' bearer of civilisations  
Here we are in response  
To your call: Iqra- Read!  
So we converge  
From far and near:  
Walking the land;  
Riding the desert  
Flying the sky  
Plowing the seas;  
The rivers, the stream  
to behold You.

We are unflagging believers  
In the sanctity and triumph  
Of our cause for global peace  
Justice and progress

Abide!  
O' UDUS, abide!  
In the traditions of Knowledge  
Abide!  
In the culture of Truth and Justice

Exult!  
O' UDUS  
Revel!  
In your feats  
Unsurpassed!



# UDUS Matriculates 3,500 Students for 2023/2024 Academic Year

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, has matriculated 3,500 students for 2023/2024 academic session.

Giving the breakdown of the admitted students, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Lawal Bilbis noted that, 610 were for the College of Health Sciences; 724 for the Chemical and Life Sciences; 227 for Faculty of Agriculture and 116 for Faculty of Arts; 126 were for the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies; 467 for the Faculty of Education and Extension Services; 80 for the Faculty of Law; 316 for the Faculty of Physical and Computing Sciences and 196 for the Faculty of Management Sciences.

The remaining 282, 78, 116, and 112 admitted students were for the Faculties of Social Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Engineering, and Environmental Designs, respectively.

Professor Bilbis explained that, the university maintained its trajectory of giving priority to science and science related programmes in compliance with the federal government's directives on the ratio of the number of students in Sciences to that of Humanities, which is 60:40, and their desire for rapid development in the country.

The Vice Chancellor added that the university had over 40 years of a long standing tradition of academic excellence.

"It is one of the highly disciplined universities and the most peaceful in Nigeria.

"It has produced eminent personalities that had, or are presently occupying high profiled positions within and outside Nigeria", he said.

Bilbis, however, appreciated the commitments of the staff towards achieving the goals of the university.

"The attitude and commitments of our staff and students are indeed commendable. I urge you all to sustain this tradition," he counselled.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. LS Bilbis administering oath on the matriculating students



The Matriculating students taking their oath



Chairman and some of the members of Ceremonies Committee at the Matriculation Ceremony



Cross section of the matriculating students





Deans of Faculties in Procession



Some Principal Officers in Procession: DVC (RI&D), DVC (Administration), DVC (Academic), and Vice Chancellor



Chairman, Students Union Caretaker Committee making his remarks



Deans of Faculties seated in the Dais



The Registrar, Mal. NA Belko anchoring the Matriculation Ceremony



Cross-section of the Matriculating students



Senate Members in Procession



# Abstain from Extremism, Immoral Acts – UDUS VC advises Matriculating Students

The Vice-Chancellor, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis has urged the matriculating students of the university not to indulge cultism and examination misconduct that would truncate their academic programmes.

He enjoined them to be diligent in their studies so that their parents and families would not be proud of them in the end.

The Vice Chancellor gave the admonition in his address during the 44th matriculation ceremony of the university held at the convocation square of the school on Wednesday.

He noted that the university would continue to remain a nurturing ground for future leaders who should positively contribute their quota to the growth and development of their society.

He said, "Say 'no' to examination misconduct, 'no' to cultism, for cultism is evil. Remember and note that indiscipline can hinder one's overall growth and success.

"Obey the rules and regulations of the university, uphold and promote the noble ideals, principles, and those values for which this prestigious University is known for.

"This great institution has for long stood as a symbol of academic excellence and a cradle of future leaders. The degrees of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University are only awarded to deserving students



From the right: The DVC Academic, Prof. MG Mahuta, VC Prof. LS Bilbis, and Registrar Mal. MN Belko

who are found to be worthy in character and learning.

"Do not disappoint yourselves, your parents, your families, your state, your country, and of course, humanity. Let the spring of academic excellence of UDUS pass through you so that, in the end, you will be a source of joy and hope to humanity."

**The degrees of the Usman Danfodiyo University are only awarded to deserving students who are found to be worthy in character and learning**



Matriculating students making their way to the dais for the oath taking



# UDUS tasks Students on Extracurricular Activities

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, has advised its students to engage in extracurricular activities to boost their skills.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Lawal Bilbis, gave the advice during the 2023/2024 matriculation ceremony.

"Remember that your university experience should by no means be confined to the classroom.

"Engage in extracurricular activities, join clubs, societies, and volunteer and take the time to build long lasting relationships," Bilbis advised.

According to him, these experiences would enrich their life and help shape the person they

would become in the future.

"The friendship you form and sustain and the activities you participate in will continue to contribute significantly to your personal development.

"They will teach you valuable life skills, teamwork, and enhance your leadership abilities," he said.

He reminded the matriculating students that the journey would not be smooth; that there would definitely be challenges and setbacks along the way which they must be ready to confront head long.

"But it is in overcoming these challenges that you will find your true strengths and resilience.

"You must endure and also embrace these moments as

opportunities for growth and learning.

"Remind yourselves that another significant milestone awaits you; the convocation ceremony where you would be conferred with degrees after meeting all your requirements," he stated.

“

**Engage in extracurricular activities, join clubs, societies, volunteer, and take the time to build lasting relationships**

”



Cross section of the matriculating students

# Why Danfodiyo University is Unique – Prof Bilbis

**U**smanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto is unique because it started from ground zero, the Vice Chancellor, explained.

Speaking at the 44th matriculation ceremony of the university, Bilbis said that the university was among the second generation universities.

"Danfodiyo University is one of the four second generation universities established in 1975 by the federal government. At that time, three university colleges were also upgraded and became fully pledged universities.

These seven universities which were fondly called "seven sisters" or "second generation" universities include: University of Maiduguri, Bayero University, University of Calabar, University of Jos, University of Ilorin and University of Sokoto later renamed Usmanu Danfodiyo University.

"Danfodiyo University is unique in the sense that of all the second generation universities, it is the only one that started from the scratch.

"In fact, by the time the pioneer Vice Chancellor was appointed, the university was no more than a concept or an idea; unlike the other six which had been colleges of older universities or had inherited physical structures from where they started to operate.

"During its first convocation ceremony held on 22nd of November, 1980, the university graduated its first set of students; a total of 72 students graduated during the period. Now the university is graduates thousands yearly," he said.

He revealed that the university began to function at a temporary site, now referred to as the City



The VC Prof LS Bilbis reading his address at the Matriculation

Campus, in October 1977 with 93 undergraduate students and four faculties.

There were also 102 students enrolled for a Pre-degree Programme.

Currently, the university has a total of 17 Faculties, a College of Health Sciences, a Postgraduate School, a School of Medical Laboratory Sciences, and 11 Research Centres, among others.

**Danfodiyo University is unique in the sense that of all the second generation universities, it is the only one that started from the scratch.**

**In fact, by the time the pioneer Vice Chancellor was appointed, the university was no more than a concept or an idea; unlike the other six which had been colleges of older universities or had inherited physical structures from where they started to operate**



# Bilbis represents Tinubu at Federal University Gusau's combined convocation

**T**he Vice Chancellor of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Professor Lawal Suleiman Bilbis represented President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the combined convocation of the Federal University, Gusau, Zamfara State.

This is the first time in recent years that, the president, who doubled as the visitor of any Federal University, was represented by a dignitary other than a Minister or Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission.

At the convocation, President Tinubu re-emphasized the significance of education to sustainable national development.

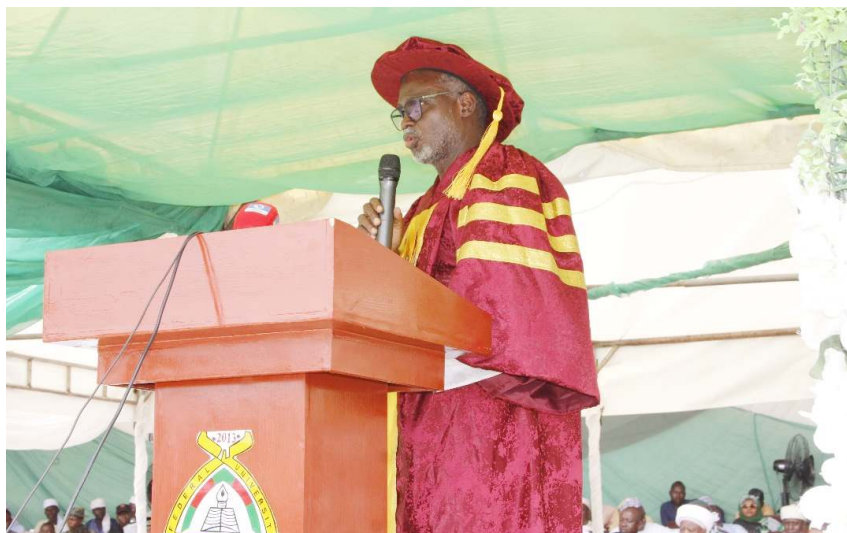
"Education is very important in the life of any individual. It is the bedrock and an essential requisite for a sustainable national development".

"It is because of this reality that the federal government in line with the renewed hope agenda of this administration has been tirelessly and relentlessly making effort and channelling resources to make sure education is made accessible to all Nigerians," the President pledged.

Tinubu explained, "This is the reason why we introduced zero interest loan scheme to ease students' access to education at the higher level".

"This is expected to reduce the prevalence of out of school children in Nigeria and improve access to qualitative education", he said.

The President also pledged to continue to address infrastructure deficit in universities across the country.



The representative of the Visitor and VC UDUS, Prof. LS Bilbis reading the address of the Visitor



From the right: the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Dauda Lawal, PhD, the representative of the Visitor and VC UDUS, Prof LS Bilbis posing for the National Anthem



The Sultan of Sokoto Muhammad Saad Abubakar in a handshake with the representative of the Visitor, Prof LS Bilbis while the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Mal Dauda Lawal PhD looks on



The DVC (RI&D) presenting goodwill message on behalf of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto at the convocation of Federal University, Gusau



# Abduction: Fed Gov devises measures to secure universities, others



Prof. LS Bilbis, representing the Visitor

**T**he Federal Government will continue to devise proactive measures to secure universities and other schools prone to attacks by criminal elements.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu stated that at the convocation of the Federal University, Gusau in Zamfara State.

The President, who is the visitor to the University, was represented by the Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis.

"Let me commiserate with all the victims of abduction, their parents, management of this University, the Zamfara State

Government and the entire people of the State for these unfortunate incidences of security challenges and other related forms of assault on innocent students and by extension all Nigerians.

"My government will do everything humanly possible to bring the perpetrators to book and to stave off future occurrences."

"The Federal Government will continue to devise proactive measures to ensure the security of all the universities in particular and the rest of the country in general.

"Our government is quite aware that no meaningful development will be achieved without the prevalence of peace and security," he said.

The President, however, commended the management of the University for taking convert and overt measures to head off the reoccurrence of the sad incidences in the future.

“

**Federal Government will continue to devise proactive measures to secure universities and other schools prone to attacks by criminal elements**

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# UDUS Committed to advancing its AMR Research Capabilities



The Vice-Chancellor Prof LS Bilbis, Principal Officers, and the officials of the FAO and FMAFS

In a significant stride towards combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the sentinel laboratory at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, recently hosted a team of officials from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security and Food & Agriculture Organization. This visit marked an essential phase in a comprehensive project funded by Fleming Funds UK, supervised by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

The Vice Chancellor of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis had stressed the potential need for a regional disease surveillance centre to curb the

spread of zoonotic diseases highlighting the unique position of Sokoto of having two international borders and a major livestock route in West Africa. The Vice Chancellor stated this while welcoming officials of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Food and Agriculture Organization on assessment tour of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicines' sentinel laboratory who paid him a courtesy visit. The facility was part of a comprehensive project funded by Fleming Funds UK. He assured the team of the University's continuous support for this vital initiative, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts for the betterment of humanity.

At the courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor, a succinct overview of

the intervention's history was given by Prof. Aliyu Jibril, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where he stated that in August, 2018 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was selected as one of the sites to locate a sentinel AMR research laboratory and in 2019, the site was handed over to Fleming Funds UK which contributed over 500,000 GBP (five hundred thousand pounds) to upgrade the AMR laboratory during the initial phase of the intervention. The upgrade covered the redesign of the laboratory infrastructure and procurement of equipment needed for innovative AMR research. The upgrades also included advanced diagnostic tools, enhanced microbial testing capabilities, and comprehensive data analysis systems, placing our laboratory at



the forefront of AMR research in the region. Periodic inspection, assessments and certifications have been carried out by the collaborative partners to ensure streamlined activities regarding the laboratory's mandate.

The team led by Dr. Hamza Ibn Ibrahim from Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security, with Faith Gbagidi from Food & Agricultural Organization on Thursday 23rd May 2024, briefed the Vice Chancellor on the purpose of their visit to the facility in UDUS to appraise and assess the laboratory's capabilities and readiness for the second phase of the AMR intervention. Their visit highlighted the critical role of UDUS

in the global fight against AMR, a growing threat to both human and animal health.

The assessment was a crucial step in preparing for the second phase of the intervention. The feedback and insights from the visit would guide the next steps, ensuring that the laboratory meets the highest standards of research and operational excellence. The collaboration with FAO and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food security would continue to provide the University with the necessary support and guidance as progress is made.

As the university prepares for the second phase of the AMR intervention, it remains committed

to advancing its research capabilities and contributing to global efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance. The support and collaboration from the partners have been invaluable, and UDUS looks forward to continuing this journey together.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Bilbis's vision for a regional disease surveillance centre in Sokoto highlights the proactive steps needed to monitor and control zoonotic diseases, benefiting not just the local community but the entire West African region. The visit and the ongoing project, signify a bright future for AMR research and a healthier tomorrow for all.



Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Training (CAMRET)



# 41st Inaugural Lecture: Unveiling the Digital Revolution: Cryptocurrency, Blockchain & Future of Finance



Prof. Malami Muhammad Maishanu, presenter of the 41st Inaugural Lecture

## Introduction

This inaugural lecture explores the transformative potential of cryptocurrencies, blockchain technology, and their impact on the future of finance. The presenter, Prof. Malami Muhammad Maishanu, a professor of finance and pioneer director of the UDUS Directorate of Investment, has a long-standing passion for the field of finance. His academic journey includes recognition for the best Ph.D. thesis in the field of finance administration in Nigerian universities, solidifying his expertise in this domain.

## The 2008 Global Financial Crisis and its Aftermath

The lecture begins by delving into the 2008 global financial crisis, which exposed the vulnerabilities and inefficiencies of the traditional financial system. The crisis led to a loss of trust in financial institutions and governments, prompting the academic community to intensify research efforts to prevent future crises and develop early warning systems.

In the aftermath of the crisis, the idea of cryptocurrencies emerged, coinciding with the prevailing sentiment of disillusionment and dissatisfaction with the traditional financial system. Cryptocurrencies, with their decentralized nature, challenged the status quo and promised to address the concerns of those who had suffered significant economic losses.

## Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Technology

The core of the lecture explores the transformative potential of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology, and their impact on the future of finance. Cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, have introduced a new paradigm of digital money that operates without the need for a central authority or traditional financial intermediaries.

Blockchain, the underlying technology behind cryptocurrencies, is a distributed digital ledger that records transactions in a secure, transparent, and tamper-proof manner. This technology has the potential to revolutionize various aspects of the



The Inaugural Lecture presenter, Prof. Malami Muhammad Maishanu

financial sector, including payments, asset management, trade finance, and more.

The presenter examines whether crypto-based financial systems can compete with traditional financial systems and the challenges they may face in terms of understanding, adoption, and regulatory frameworks. The lecture also explores the potential benefits of cryptocurrencies and blockchain, such as increased efficiency, reduced transaction costs, and greater financial inclusion.

## Conclusion

The inaugural lecture aims to provide insights into this rapidly evolving financial landscape, serving as a symbolic induction of the presenter into the academic community and a contribution to the ongoing discourse on the future of finance. As the traditional financial system continues to grapple with the aftermath of the 2008 crisis, the emergence of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology presents both opportunities and challenges that warrant careful examination and understanding.



Prof. Malami Muhammad Maishanu being introduced at the Inaugural Lecture





Chala analyzing ELISA results with CAMRET's researchers

We are excited to have welcomed Chala Kenenisa Edae, a PhD scholar from Ethiopia, to the Centre for Advanced Medical Research and Training (CAMRET), Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (UDUS). During his visit, Chala received hands-on training in ELISA, nucleic acid extraction, and conventional and real-time PCR from our skilled researchers. The visit, facilitated by our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Lawal Suleiman Bilbis, who also serves as the President of the Federation of African Societies of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, marks a significant step towards strengthening collaborations between UDUS and Addis Ababa University. Chala's research focuses on cohort studies of COVID-19 vaccination in Ethiopia, and we are proud to support his important work.



Chala learning DNA/RNA extraction for subsequent PCR testing



Chala preparing of samples for PCR amplification on the extracted DNA/RNA



Abdulrahman (PhD in Veterinary Microbiology student attached to CAMRET) teaching Chala sample preparation in the molecular biology lab



Chala with CAMRET researchers during ELISA detection of IL-6 protein

#CAMRET #UDUS #ScientificCollaboration #COVID19Research #AfricanScience



## Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service conducts Facility Tour of CASRAS-UDUS

A delegation from the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), Abuja, conducted a facility tour of the Centre for Advanced Science Research and Analytical Service (CASRAS), Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (UDUS) on Wednesday, 29 May 2024. The visit aimed to explore potential collaborations, assess the advanced scientific research capabilities, and understand how CASRAS can support NAQS in enhancing agricultural quarantine measures in Sokoto State and Nigeria as a whole.

The delegation from NAQS included: Ebenezer Idachaba (Director, Laboratory Management Services), Issaka Ahmed (Director HRM), Dr. Ogunfunmilayo A. O., Dr.

Shakiru A. Kazeem, Dr Ibrahim Aliyu Giwa (Controller Illela Border), Aliyu Usman (A.S.Q. Illela Border). The NAQS team was accompanied by the Chairman All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), Sokoto State Chapter, Alh Jamilu Sanusi Muhammad.

The visit commenced with a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. L.S. Bilbis and other management staff of UDUS, where the visitors unveiled the objectives of their visit and thanked the VC for the warmth reception. The NAQS officials were taken on a comprehensive tour of the CASRAS facilities, led by the Director of the Centre, Prof. Misbahu Ladan Mohammed and the Deputy Director, Dr. Andrew Onu. The visitors toured through major laboratories which

included atomic spectroscopy laboratory, molecular spectroscopy laboratory, gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry laboratory (GC-MS), X-ray spectrometry laboratory, instrumental chromatography laboratory, electron microscopy laboratory and chemical reactor laboratory (CRL). CASRAS staff conducted several live demonstrations showcasing their analytical capabilities using the state-of-the-art facilities.

Following the tour and demonstrations, a roundtable discussion was held to deliberate on potential areas of collaboration. Both organizations agreed to further discussions to formalize a partnership that will enhance agricultural quarantine services in Nigeria.





**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED SCIENCE RESEARCH  
AND ANALYTICAL SERVICES (CASRAS)  
USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO**



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