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Selection of BUK VC Now Comes The Parley



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, Chairman of the Congregation



Director, DEAR, Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed, member of congregation casting her vote



Dr. Muhammad Babangida Muhammad, Chairman Standing Committee on Congregation

Historical background of BUK Congregation Parley

Digging through historic records, **Bala G. Abdullahi** attempts to find the fount of the BUK model Congregational Parley and beyond that, its possible impact on the outcome of past and recent contests for the Vice Chancellorship

When in 1977 the then Abdullahi Bayero University College became a full fledged University with the name Bayero University, it did not pose much problem to appoint the pioneer Vice-Chancellor. What happens was that its Principal, Dr. Mahmoud Tukur was appointed the pioneer Vice-Chancellor. His successor, Professor J.O.C Ezeilor, then Vice-Chancellor of University of Nigeria Nsukka was just redeployed to BUK as Vice-Chancellor by the Visitor. The sequence of succession followed up to 1991 when Professor Muhammad Sani Zahrandeen became the 4th Vice-Chancellor (1991-95). But the promulgation of Decree No. 11 of 1993, and that of No. 25 of 1999 and the Amendment Act 2003, brought far reaching changes into the processes/procedures of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor in Nigerian Federal Universities, including BUK. These became the procedures/processes that brought to office the sixth and the seventh BUK Vice-Chancellors.

A cursory scrutiny of the combined provisions of the three laws shows that the procedure/processes are as follows:

1. Advertising the Vice-Chancellorship vacancy in a reputable newspaper(s)
2. Constitution of a Search Team
3. Constitution of a Selection Board
4. Assessment by the Selection Board of willing Candidates
5. Appointment by the Council, and notification of the Visitor.

But, in 1995 in addition to the aforementioned procedures/processes, Bayero University introduced a new innovation, Parley with the Congregation and Professor Bello Bako Dambatta was the pioneer beneficiary of the new innovation which has not only come to stay but has also been institutionalised in the process of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor in BUK.

The question begging for answer is: where is the Congregation Parley in the guidelines stipulated by the laws? To answer the above poser, one needs to take a careful look at the assessment criterion of the Selection Board. The criterion says points are to be allocated for Community Acceptability, and Bayero University believes that the Congregation is the best representation of the Bayero University community that should be used as the barometer to gauge that

acceptability. It should also be noted that the law establishing the University states that the Congregation can express its views on any matter affecting the University. With these at the back of its minds, Bayero University, Kano in 1995 introduced Congregation Parley which is meant to make input into the assessment process of the Selection Board by expressing the preference of the Congregation.

After the first Congregation Parley in 1995, the Selection Board only noted the resolution, but declined to allocate any point from the results of the congregation ranking, yet coincidentally, the winner of the parley, Professor Bello Bako Dambatta became the Vice-Chancellor. The second Parley took place in 1999 and the community was able to convince the Council to allocate five points out of 100 based on the candidates' performance at the parley. The candidate with the highest ranking at the parley was Professor Musa Abdullahi of blessed memory. He was appointed the new Vice-Chancellor. In 2005, another Congregation Parley was conducted. The resolution of the parley was submitted to the Selection Board and the Board accepted the request of the Congregation and increased the points from five in the previous congregation parley to 10 out of 100. Professor Muhammad Attahiru Jega floored other candidates by scoring the highest votes at the congregation. He eventually became the Vice-Chancellor. And in 2010, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed the incumbent Vice-Chancellor won majority votes at the Congregation Parley. The Selection Board raised the points allocated to the result of the Congregation Parley from 10 to 20 points. Professor Rasheed the eventual winner of the parley became Vice-Chancellor.

On 21st July, 2015 the fifth Congregation Parley took place and by the result released, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello scored 70 per cent of the total votes, leaving the remaining 30 per cent to be shared among the other eight candidates. Going by the chronology of BUK Congregation Parley, a candidate with the highest number of votes has always had advantage and usually at end becomes the new Vice-Chancellor.

Bala G. Abdullahi is an Assistant Registrar with the Public Affairs Directorate, Vice Chancellor's Office.

With a bird's eye view of the Congregational Parley, **Sheriff Ahmed** gives the reader a taste of the tension, excitement and democratic exhilaration experienced by the participants

BUK Parley: The Inside Story

It was a most eventful, yet gruelling and nerve-racking experience at the parley. The hall, Musa Abdullahi Auditorium, was chock-a-block. Yes, the one-thousand-seater auditorium was full to capacity to the extent that hundreds of members of the Congregation squatted or sat on the bare floor. In some cases two colleagues had to share a seat. The contenders, yes, the eight competitors vying for the post of Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, were all seated, anxiously waiting for their turn to dish out their visionary statements to the University's Congregation.

As expected, it was an array of squat or hunky, average and tall professors who were aspiring for the coveted position of VC. You could 'peep' through the minds of some of the contestants to see them rehearse their points fretfully but confidently, while others looked diffident and unobtrusive, unsure of how the stage would present them before the intimidating intellectuals and other members of the Congregation. One may wonder why a professor would panic before

an audience, having been teaching and presenting papers at conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. for many years. The word here is tension.

Now the stage was set. The Chairman, Standing Committee on Congregation (SCC), Dr. Muhammad Babangida Muhammad, was in control of affairs. Articulate as he has always been, he welcomed members of the Congregation and, without further ado, spelt out the rules of the game. The rules, indeed, covered both the audience and the contestants. Obviously, each of the contestants had a number of supporters – you may call them interest groups – seated and listening to the emcee with rapt attention.

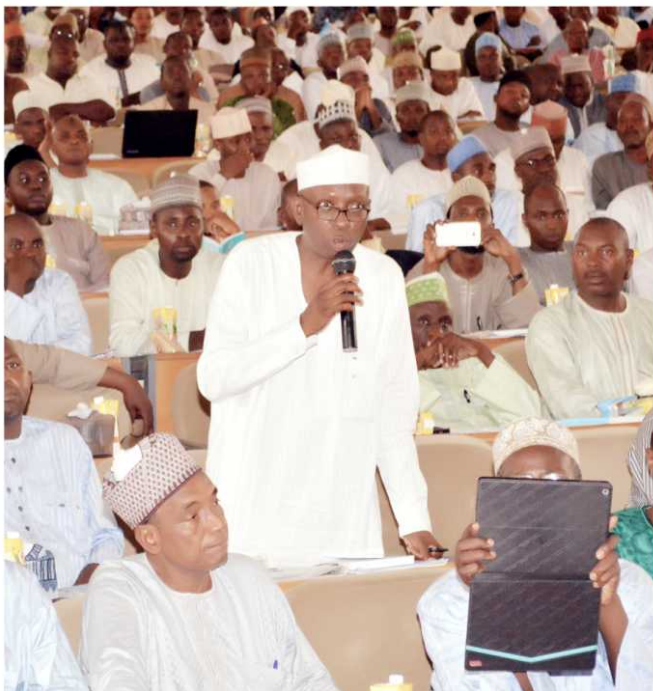
Certainly, each of the groups had spent days and weeks campaigning for the candidate of their choice. Well, the candidates themselves had traversed both the Old and the New Campus and other campuses of the University, Faculties and Departments canvassing for votes. Text messages were sent to voters. E-mail was not left out. Some of them spoke to the voters on the phone and lobbied for their support. Some of the text messages I received were negative, damning, pejorative and uncomplimentary. To me, that was the saddest aspect of the entire electioneering process. Yes, the false accusations, the name-calling and the unprintable words were aimed at damaging the reputation of some opponents and, by implication, the Management of the University. Dirty politics, you may call it. Well, the result of all the attacks and the invectives that characterized the seemingly bitter politicking would be ready in the twinkling of an eye.

A short announcement was made and the auditorium was silent momentarily. The eight candidates were about to be introduced and invited to come on the stage. "I shall call the names alphabetically," the emcee announced. And without hesitation all the contestants had lined up on the stage. The audience clapped at the mention of each of the names. It was a lovely scene to behold!

"One of these intellectuals will emerge winner at the end of the day," I said to myself.

"You may go back to your seats," the unassuming emcee announced. The audience responded with yet another thunderous round of applause.

A short while later, the moderator announced that each of the contestants would be given ten minutes to



Professor Sule Kano contributing to a debate on voting procedure during the parley

speak, after which the audience would be given the opportunity to ask any of the candidates questions. Here again, the gentleman in control of affairs of the day spelt out some rules regarding the kind of questions to be asked. So far, so good; everything was going on smoothly. Indeed, I was enjoying every minute of the show. Yes, that was the first time I would witness one of the processes of selecting a vice chancellor at Bayero University, Kano – presenting candidates before the Congregation for a parley by way of assessing the community's acceptability of the contenders. By the guidelines governing the selection of a vice chancellor, this first step is not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

Don't forget that an electoral body was constituted to conduct the election. Names were proposed and seconded. The constituted electoral body were asked to choose the chairperson among themselves, and it was done.

Don't forget, also, that an accreditation exercise was conducted outside the auditorium to ensure that the election was free, fair and credible. Every member of the Congregation was not only accredited, but also registered before gaining entrance into the hall. A job well done by the Standing Committee on Congregation! Of course, with an institution that produced Professor Attahiru Jega, the former INEC Chairman, it was expected that the committee in charge of the conduct of the election must borrow a leaf from 'Mr Card Reader' to make the process nearly perfect.

It was time to hear the voices of the contenders to the seat of VC. The audience was civil, cooperative and law-abiding, as each candidate mounted the podium to deliver his speech, giving reason why he was the most qualified to be the next Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano. No one attacked the other, as they were all busy outlining their programmes and how they intended to achieve results. Brilliant presentations! While some of them advocated 'change' and the introduction of new policies, if they were elected, others dwelled on 'continuity' as their cornerstone. They were of the belief that the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Professor A.A. Rasheed, has laid a solid foundation for the transformation of the University, so much so that any attempt to derail from that path of progress would not auger well for the growth of the University. One of the candidates, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, the clear favourite, in his presentation, said he would continue from where Prof. Rasheed would stop. The audience gave him a standing ovation. In fact, his speech was punctuated with applause; and by the time he took his seat, the whole hall had erupted as though he had been declared the winner.

“...Bayero University has undergone positive transformations and made a lot of progress. These transformations and progress have become more pronounced in the last five years within which the

University has seen massive physical infrastructural developments, extensive human capacity building, unprecedented expansion of its programmes and the laying of the foundation for serious research... If given the opportunity to lead Bayero University for the next five years, my vision is to build on the solid foundation so that the University could rapidly work on achieving its vision in a way that is consistent with the needs and aspirations of its immediate community, its catchment area and the Nigerian nation...” said Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello.

The round of applause that greeted these remarks reverberated the hall in a typical fashion when a goal is scored by a home-based club in a football match. At that juncture, it was very clear Prof. Yahuza Bello was coasting home to victory.

The spectators, at the end of the day, had listened to all the aspirants. Eight of them. Professors of various fields of endeavour. None of them attained his professorship less than five years ago. So, you see, they are all reputable scholars.

All was set for the ballot to be cast. But before then, there would be another round of question and answer session. The chairman of the electoral body invited questions from the audience, and the contenders, one after the other, came back on the podium to do justice to the questions. All of them responded to the questions to the best of their abilities. But did they answer the questions directed to them satisfactorily? Were the addressees satisfied with the answers given? We would soon get to know who and who came out tops, as the scene was set for members of the Congregation to cast their ballot.

At this point in time, it was very appropriate for



Officials distributing ballot papers to Contestants, (left to right) Prof. Danladi Yalwa, Prof M.D Suleiman, Prof M.Y. Bello and Prof. Y.O. Imam

the chairman of the electoral body to spell out the guidelines for the ranking of the candidates, such as the collection of ballot paper, time to vote, how to fold the ballot paper and forward it to the collection point, etc. That was done successfully. But before that was done, some issues had to be sorted out to avoid the nullification of the result. That was because it was observed that if the number of votes cast was more than the number of people accredited, there would be a problem. The electoral umpire had announced that 1, 280 people had been accredited, but the number of people in the hall seemed to be slightly more than that, meaning that some unaccredited people had succeeded in sneaking into the hall. A number of suggestions were made by the members of the Congregation. At the end of it all, the wise men holding forth as electoral umpire provided a way out of the quagmire.

Shortly afterwards, the ballot papers were distributed and the moment of decision had set in. A short while later, members had cast their ballot and it was time for the electoral umpire to sort out the ballot papers publicly and place them appropriately in the ballot boxes bearing the names of the candidates.

Sorting had started. The Chairman of the electoral body publicly announced, “Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Adejo Audu...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Dahiru Suleiman...Dahiru Suleiman...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Yahuza Bello...Sani Sule... Sani Fage...Yahuza Bello...” and so on it continued until the last ballot was sorted.

It was interesting to note that Yahuza Bello's name would be mentioned, sometimes, fifteen times, or even more, before one of the remaining candidates' name would be heard. It was a clear case of landslide, wasn't it? All in all, the results declared were as follows:

1. Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello: 834 votes;
2. Professor Muhammad Sani Sule: 116 votes;
3. Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman: 102 votes;
4. Professor Kamilu Sani Fage: 61 votes;
5. Professor Muhammadu Abdullahi: 36 votes;
6. Professor Abdulrahman Adejo Audu: 17 votes;
7. Professor Lawan Danladi Yalwa: 17 votes;
8. Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam: 4 votes;
9. Professor Duke Urhobo Ophori: 0 votes.

The 9th candidate, Professor Duke Urhobo Ophori, was not presented to the Congregation, but his name was on the ballot paper.

As I said previously, the emergence of Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello as the winner was quite predictable, going by the standing ovation that greeted

his introduction as a candidate, his invitation to the podium and his return to the podium to answer some questions. Indeed, the deafening applause he received could have disorganized some of the contestants, in the first place, and the fact that he had been Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) of Bayero University, Kano on two separate occasions (1999–2003 & 2010–2014) as well as the undeniable fact that he is well known to the University community, placed him in a better position to lead the pack. In other words, he stood out as the most experienced personality in terms of holding administrative positions in the University, which contributed to his success in the keenly contested fight.

In addition to that, he campaigned vigorously on the strength of continuity. He also extolled the achievement of the sitting Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed. It makes a lot of sense, honestly, not only to consolidate on the success story of one's predecessor, but also to attempt to improve on the gains so far made. This way, succeeding leaders or vice chancellors will be forced to work very hard to sustain the tempo of the development for the benefit of the University and its community.

Professor M.Y. Bello also received a thunderous applause, I recall, when he said, in his concluding remarks: “If it is the wish of Allah that someone else becomes the next Vice Chancellor of our University, I wish to use this forum to publicly state my commitment to fully support him. Bayero University is bigger than each and all of us...”

That was statesmanlike. From this, one could deduce that Prof. M.Y. Bello did not consider the contest for the seat of VC as the determination to risk everything in an effort to succeed. In other words, he did not see the contest as a do or die affair.

To draw the final curtain, I would like to state that resorting to blackmail, campaign of calumny, derogatory remarks, gratuitous and outlandish comments against a favoured or any candidate, for that matter, do not win an election. Elections are won based on vision, constructive ideas, calculated and strategic planning and tactical campaign aimed at convincing the electorate. If a show of aggression, libellous or slanderous comments win elections, the PDP would have retained power, going by the kind of attacks unleashed at General Muhammadu Buhari during the last presidential campaign. We must develop a new sense of responsibility, a new attitude or approach to electioneering and a new revolutionary discipline. This way lies proper national pride; this way lies proper national redemption.

Kudos to the Standing Committee on Congregation (SCC) for a job well done!

Sheriff A.R. Ahmed is Principal Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of General Administration.

Of the eight out of nine aspirants for the post of the Vice Chancellorship, who addressed the Congregation Parley, **Abubakar Yusuf** listened carefully to what they had to say and teased out the essentials

Spotlight on BUK Vice Chancellorship Aspirants



Contestants seated (from right): Professor Muhammad Abdullahi, Professor Kamilu Sani Fage, Professor Muhammad Sani Sule, Professor Abdulrahman Adejo Audu

Tuesday the 21st day of July, 2015 will remain indelible in the minds of members of the Bayero University Community. For, it was the day the 48th Congregation meeting/parley took place, giving members the opportunity to express their preference on who becomes the next BUK Vice-Chancellor. It could be recalled that nine Academics signified their intention to vie for the exalted office of BUK Vice-Chancellorship position which the Governing Council announced in April through advertisement in some national dailies, due to be vacant on the 18th of August, 2015. All the nine aspirants scaled the hurdles of the Selection Board screening and are eligible to participate in the all important Congregation Parley.

As at 12.30noon on the fateful Day, the stage was fully set for the business of the day, and the acting chairman of the Congregation in the person of Professor Sadiq Isa Raddah, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed who was absent due to flight cancellation declared the meeting opened.

And going by the agenda of the meeting, each of the nine aspirants was given 10 minutes to make his presentation. The agenda was followed religiously and no aspirant was allowed to exceed the time allotted to him. The aspirants were called one after the other to make their presentation.

It is noteworthy to briefly review the pledges made by each aspirant. First on the roll call was Professor Muhammad Abdullahi. He is a professor of Education in Bayero University, Kano. He pledged to operate an open door policy by involving staff in decision making process. He also promised to pay particular attention to staff welfare as well as build more staff quarters, hoping to be able to provide housing accommodation to majority staff of the University.

The next candidate was Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleman. He is a Professor of History and was born on 22nd of November, 1957. He was promoted to the rank of Professor of History in 2001. He held so many positions, among them: Head of History Department; Dean, Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies; Dean, Student Affairs; Chairman, University

Examination Committee; Chairman of the University Research Board; Chairman, University Research Policy Committee and member of Bayero University Senate since 1992 to date. He is currently the Director of Mambayya.

Professor M. D. Suleman promised that if elected as the 10th Vice Chancellor he would upgrade the University's ICT, prioritise Staff Development, Research, conference attendance and workshop, and staff housing maintenance.

Kamilu Sani Fagge, is a Professor of Political Science and among the frontrunners of the Vice-Chancellorship contest. He promised to enhance management effectiveness, human resource development and welfare of staff. He also pledged to strengthen ICT management, and equally strengthen academic as well as use his connection to attract funding.

Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello was born in Kawo quarters of Nassarawa Local Government of Kano State about 56 years ago. He graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science Degree Education/Mathematics. He obtained his Masters Degree in 1984 and a Doctorate Degree from the University of Arkansas, USA in 1988. In 2001 he was promoted to the rank of a Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science.

He was Head of Mathematics Department, Dean, Faculty of Science. He was two times Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), and currently he is the Chairman, Project, Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation. In his presentation, he promised to continue with the programmes of the current Vice Chancellor as well as adopt his administrative style of leadership which includes openness and inclusiveness.

Professor Abdulrahman A. Audu during his presentation, promised to turn Bayero University into a modern University. He also promised to accord staff welfare priority and improve university linkages.

Professor Muhammad Sani Sule, a former head of Biochemistry Department and former Dean of Faculty of Science, was brief in his presentation. He spoke, and like his colleagues promised to do his best to justify what confidence the congregation would have on him. He said if given the chance to lead BUK, he would turn it into an international university through expanding access and infrastructural development as well as enhanced staff welfare.

One of the external candidates who participated at the parley is Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam from the University of Ilorin. He is a Professor of Islamic Studies. He told the Congregation that he would concentrate on improving town and gown relationships as well as improve IGR and pursues students and staff welfare.

Professor Lawan Danladi Yalwa of the Linguistics Department, who joined the service of Bayero University as Graduate Assistant in 1978 also made an interesting presentation. He held the position of Director Centre for Research in Nigerian Languages and Folklore from 2010 to 2014. He promised to give emphasis to Physical Development of the university, staff development and improve students and staff welfare, if given the opportunity to lead BUK.

There were a few targeted questions from the members of the Congregation, which were answered succinctly and to the satisfaction of the audience.

Abubakar Yusuf is an Assistant Registrar with the Directorate of Public Affairs, Vice Chancellor's Office.



Contestants seated (from right): Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello and Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman

What Members Say About the Parley

Bayero University conducted its 48th Special Congregation Meeting on Tuesday, 21st July, 2015 tagged Congregation where members ranked contestants for the post of vice Chancellor through election. Most of the congregation members believe that the 48th meeting was the best congregational parley ever conducted by the university; as manifested in their remarks when they were interviewed by **Nura Garba and Rabi'u Sagir Muhammed**

Dr. Aminullahi El Gambari: Islamic Studies and Shari'ah

The whole election was positive and the outcome too was credible and acceptable. In some universities, the processes of appointment of a new Vice Chancellor are done in chaotic circumstances as we usually read in newspapers. I really commend members of the congregation for their role throughout. I also give a pass mark to the Standing Committee for organizing a befitting Parley.

The election outcome has manifested Professor Yahuza's hard work, sincerity and dedication. He had really demonstrated his uncommon excellence when he held sway as HOD, Dean, PG School and as a two time Deputy Vice Chancellor. We sincerely hope that if he is eventually appointed, he will further elevate the standard of the university.

Barrister Kabiru Abdullahi: Legal Department

I really commend the Standing Committee for the good conduct of the parley. The electoral committee has also done well in handling the situation very well. The election of Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello is good because he has been in the administration for long and he knows the system very well. The five-year administration of Professor Abubakar Rasheed has been a complete success and Prof Yahuza Bello happens to be one of the arrow heads.

In terms of the election process, I think the standing committee should design a comprehensive blue print in terms of liaising with the Directorate of Establishment Matters to print the names of all the bonafide Congregation members, so that the problem of eligibility or otherwise can be easily solved.

Ashiru Tukur Inuwa: Department of Mass Communication

The Parley was really wonderful. It was a demonstration of true academic environment. All the contestants were welcomed and applauded by the members for their courage and foresight. Another issue about this parley is that despite prior rumours of unfounded allegations against Professor Yahuza Bello, he proved to be the most worthy candidate. People voted for him massively, knowing full well that he had demonstrated an uncommon excellence during his reign as Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics.

I also appreciate the conduct of other candidates before, during and after the election. This is a challenge to the country's politicians, who are expected to exercise decorum and sportsmanship, the same way our eight candidates did.

Sabi'u Sani Abubakar: Directorate of Academic Planning

Professor Yahuza's success in this election was as a result of his performance. I know Prof Bello as an honest and hardworking manager. He was my external supervisor during my undergraduate and also my lecturer during my Masters, so I know him very well. Prof Bello said during the Parley that he would carry all staff along if he becomes the Vice Chancellor. We pray to God to help him to fulfill this promise. Even though he may have some challenges, but he should work for the best interest of the university.

Mu'az Dantala Zakari: Agric Engineering

This is the most exciting and colourful parley in the history of the university. The election was conducted peacefully and efficiently. We believe the winner will continue from where the present

administration left because of his competence and credibility. On becoming the leader, Prof Yahuza should treat all staff equally without favoring one section against the other. He is for all and should belong to nobody.

Maude Rabi'u Gwadabe: Mass Communication
I was highly impressed by what the Standing Committee did in terms of good organization. We were served with variety of delicious food throughout. The election was absolutely transparent devoid of any form of irregularities.

Ibrahim Lawan: Agric Engineering

I really commend the search team for its effort in scouting the contenders, who are academics of high repute. The direction of the votes cast showed that Professor Yahuza Bello is the most credible among the contestants and members who voted for him realized his competence. We wish him good luck and a successful tenure ahead.

Murtala Muhammad Badamasi: Geography

The contestants impressed me by displaying their talents. The Parley was well organized saved for small debate of who is qualified and who are not qualified to be a member of the congregation. The election was successful because it was conducted through the platform of transparency and accountability. Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, who emerged as the winner, was my former Dean at the Faculty of Science. He was a two-time Deputy Vice Chancellor when I was a student. I had several interactions with him. He really knows the terrain of BUK and he deserves to be the next vice chancellor because of his good principles, hard work and charisma. People really saw something in him, especially his good qualities. That is why they voted for him.

Al-Mustapha Sule Shanono: Faculty Officer, FAIS

This is the congregation meeting with the highest crowd I have ever witnessed. All congregational members cooperated well and displayed high sense of maturity. The only thing that should be done in the future is that of enlightenment about the eligibility or otherwise of members.

Dr. Amina: Head of Department English and Literary Studies

The venue of the election was filled beyond capacity. For the first time the issue of election

generated a lot of interest among the staff, especially because of the new strategy of campaigns through the text messages and emails. What baffled me at the occasion was inadequate security at the venue, given earlier scaremongering because initially I was scared to enter due to the security threats, but I summoned courage to enter. In terms of accreditation, I think the Standing Committee needs to introduce the use of I.D card parade before one is allowed to enter. Despite the few challenges the parley was successful and I am optimistic that if Prof Yahuza is appointed the next Vice Chancellor, he would continue from where the present administration stopped.

Prof. Lukman Ibrahim Diso: University Librarian

We are thankful to God for the successful parley and we look forward to ushering a new Vice Chancellor for Bayero University, Kano. I was amused with the campaigns of hate speeches which are not supposed to be so in an academic environment. It is quite unhealthy for the system and we will do everything possible to stop it. We saw the credibility of Professor Yahuza manifested in how people massively voted for him. This has really shown community acceptability and it will go a long way in playing a prominent role in his appointment.

The Standing Committee should redouble its effort in creating more enlightenment platforms because half of the members are new, who do not know anything about the congregation. They should not allow such issues of eligibility to create confusion in the future. What they should do is to request each department and unit to submit the list of all staff with a Degree, so that accreditation can be done using that list and the staff must show their identity cards.

By the opinion of most members of the congregation, the 48th meeting was a success and that a lot needs to be done by the Standing Committee in terms of proper accreditation and enlightenment especially to new staff who are new to the system.

Nura Garba is an Assistant Registrar, while Rabi'u Sagir Mohammed is a writer, both in the Information and Publications, Directorate of Public Affairs.

Mustapha Gide critically examines the impact of the triumph of the slogan of “continuity” by the candidate ranked highest at the 48th Congregation Meeting Parley, vis-à-vis other slogans, such as “change” using the manifestoes of all the candidates present as indices

Continuity and Selection of the New BUK Vice Chancellor

The parley platform adopted by Bayero University as part of the processes to selection of its Vice Chancellor, measured the preference of University staff on whether they want continuity or other alternatives on offer. Nine candidates had indicated interest to vie for the post but eight eventually turned-up on 17th July, 2015, at the Parley. Each came with a manifesto to showcase his intent and what he offers, should the Congregation elect him first, and he passes the interview before the selection committee and gets the final endorsement of the University Governing Council.

At the end of the Parley, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello emerged first with 834 votes out of the 1,187 valid votes counted, followed by Professor Muhammad Sani Sule with 116 votes while the third position was secured by Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman who got 102 votes. The rest were: Professor Kamilu Sani Fagge with 61 votes, Professor Muhammad Abdullahi 36 votes, Professor Lawal Danladi Yalwa 17 votes, Professor Abdulrahman Adejo Audu 7 votes, Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam 4 votes, Professor Duke Urhobo Ophori was not able to attend and as such did not get any vote and 12 votes were declared invalid.

The candidate, who scored the highest votes, Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello, has served all along in the Management during the two terms of the previous incumbent Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics). He was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) since 1999 when Professor Attahiru Jega was Vice Chancellor and a year to the handing over to his successor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed. He served in the



Professor Muhammad Abdullahi



Professor Abdulrahman Adejo Audu



Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello



Professor Kamilu Sani Fagge

same capacity till 2014 and after the expiry of his tenure he was appointed Chairman, Projects Monitoring and Evaluation, the position he held to-date. By this analysis therefore if continuity is to prevail, the University Community is optimistic that there is no better person who knew the tenure of Professor Abubakar Rasheed and who had the zeal to continue with his agenda that Professor Yahuza Bello, hence the verdict of the Parley.

However, in trying to x-ray the thinking behind the University Community's resolve of

choosing the option of continuity, it would ease the task if the manifestos of the candidates are used as a yardstick, to contrast the alternative options on the table.

Professor Abdulrahman Adejo Audu told the Parley his intent to tackle problems bedevilling the University Community such as water supply, electricity, lost glory of Staff School; inadequate internet service, equipment, training, female participation in management; to improve

Professor Kamilu Sani Fage for his part explained that despite efforts made by the Managements in transforming the University a lot remains to be done, and as such he proposed eight key objectives to move the University forward: these are enhancing Management Effectiveness through devolution of power; enhance human resource development; strengthen Information Technology drive; improved non-public funding of the University; promote academic excellence; strengthen quality assurance/strategies, strengthen research as well as engineering self-sustaining culture in financial, administrative and general development of the university.

Professor Yahaya Oyewole Imam said he filed his application to ensure that he raised the ranking profile of Bayero University, strengthen town and gown relations, improved financial base of the University, pursue student and staff welfare with vigour and promote harmonious working relations with Federal, State and Local Governments in the country.

Professor Muhammad Abdullahi wanted staff to imbibe the culture of having a University with high academic quality through efficient management of resources, using popular views in decision making, running University by Committee system, equipping laboratories and workshops, ensure staff promotion promptly, paying salaries and allowances on time, renovation of staff houses and building additional ones, maximization of revenue drive, provide modern recreational and sports facilities, improve academic cooperation between universities, strengthen relations with immediate communities as well as promotion of training among staff members including those in staff school.

Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman told the parley of his intent to invest in ICT including training of staff to be ICT compliant, pursuance of vigorous training of teaching and non-teaching staff, adequate financing and encouragement of research activities, encouraging conference and workshop participation in and outside the country, devise means of encouraging individual staff members



Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam



Professor Muhammad Sani Sule



Professor M. D. Suleiman



Professor Lawal Danladi Yalwa

academia-industry linkage, improve internally revenue generation, and quality assurance adherence so that the University's products would emerged among the best in Nigeria. This is in addition to the three reasons that fuelled his intent: his decades of experiences having widened the horizons of what he wants Bayero University should be in future, translating his vast industrial exposure to add value on the University and paying back the goodies done to him by the University.

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to build their houses through collaboration with unions and Micro-Finance bank, prompt renovation of houses at the same time mediating personally to ensure conducive atmosphere and relations among the occupants, uplifting the Health Services to ensure efficiency, encouraging the female gender and physically challenged, focussing research on juvenile delinquency and promoting enactment of common policy on vulnerable groups in the society. He promised to bring to an end all problems related to students registration, examination results and Municipal Services.

Professor Lawal Danladi Yalwa of the Department of Linguistics promised to focus on completion of ongoing projects, improving the existing ones, staff development, staff and students' welfare as well as promotion of interaction, discussion, debate and dialogue with all stakeholders and that he would prudently manage the University resources.

Professor M. S. Sule of the Department of Biochemistry said he would ensure strict adherence to the universally acclaimed Committee system, transparent administration, consolidation and expansion of the existing programmes in addition to new ones, welfare of staff and students as well as security of lives and property.

Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello of the Department of Information Technology x-rayed the three previous administrations of Professor Musa Abdullahi, Professor Attahiru Jega and Professor Abubakar Rasheed, whom he believed have turned around the University and placed it among the top universities in Nigeria. He however, noted that the transformation of the University became more pronounced in the last five years, when the University witnessed massive physical infrastructural development, intensive human capacity building, unprecedented expansion of programmes and laying foundation for serious research. His agenda is to continue and build on the solid foundation already created, this he said will enable him place Bayero University among the top 10 African Universities and one of the top 500 Universities in the world. Thus, he would

focus on sustaining and improving excellence in teaching, open and inclusive leadership style, ensures attainment of excellence research, staff capacity building, consultations and reaching out, staff welfare and working along with unions as well as total commitment to the services of the University.

From the foregoing, the contestants have showcased their manifestos with some applauding the performance of the outgoing and previous Managements in transforming the University and others having contrary views. Some of the contestants have appreciated the performances of the Rasheed's led Management but wanted to make adjustments in trying to achieve what they wanted should any of them emerged as Vice Chancellor. However, Professor Yahuza Bello's manifesto had wholeheartedly applauded the performance of the Management under Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed and as such wanted to build from where he stopped to ensure continuity.

The resolve by the University Community to massively voted Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello during the Parley was informed by the fact that they wanted continuity in running the affairs of the University. The staff had all along appreciated the development that took place in the last five years when Professor Abubakar Rasheed was Vice Chancellor of which Professor Yahuza Bello was among the key actors. They are optimistic that he would not deviate from the journey started to make the University a hub of academic excellence, envied by its contemporaries.

What this continuity mandate entails is to go ahead with massive infrastructural development on all the campuses, promotion of academic excellence through teaching, research, linkages, creating new programmes, Departments, Faculties, Centres, Institutes and the Collegiate System; employment of capable hands in academic and non-academic cadres; conferences/workshops attendance, reaching out to partner with friends of the University and agencies; making excellent use of TETFund allocations; promotion of accesses and other efforts that have today singled out Bayero University as among the best rated by National Universities Commission (NUC), other assessment agencies and professional bodies.



48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



PICTURE CAPTIONS

1. Members of Congregation being registered on arrival
2. Members queue up to enter the venue
3. Members being served a set of documents each at the entrance of Musa Abdullahi Auditorium, venue of the Congregation meeting
4. The Registrar, Sani Ibrahim Amin (first left), who is Secretary of the Congregation meeting inspecting the registration process, accompanied by the Director Security, Rtd Col. A.A. Mohammed.
5. Professor Sadiq Isah Radda, Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, representing the Vice Chancellor as Acting Chairman, welcoming members to the meeting.
6. Dr. Muhammad Babangida Muhammad, Chairman Standing Committee on Congregation, delivering his welcome remarks



48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



The three member Electoral Committee, shortly after their election: (from right) Dr Ado M Bello, Chairman; Prof Aisha Isma'il and Dr. Ado Dan Isa, members



Dr. Muhammad Babangida Muhammad, Chairman Standing Committee on Congregation (first left) briefing members of the electoral committee



Acting Chairman of the Congregation meeting, Prof Sadiq Isah Radda, DVC Administration (1st right) and Secretary, Sani Ibrahim Amin, who is also the Registrar, presiding over the meeting



Part of the mammoth crowd in the hall, with some members of the Standing Committee on Congregation (SCC) in the foreground, also seated



Part of the BUK congregation members



Part of the BUK female congregation members

48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



The Bursar, Alhaji Buhari Musa (first left) at the Congregation, along with Prof. Emeritus Dandatti Abdulqadir, one time BUK Vice Chancellor



Prof. M.S. Abdulkadir, History department (first left) and Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim, Director Centre for Qur'anic Studies at the meeting



Prof. Lukman Ibrahim Diso, University Librarian and Dr A.B. Baffa, Dean Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology at the meeting



Part of the BUK congregation members



Part of the BUK congregation members



Part of the BUK congregation members



48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



Prof Muhammad Abdullahi (1st right) in a warm handshake with Prof Abdulrahman Adejo Audu



Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello (1st right) in a warm handshake with Professor Kamilu Sani Fage



Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam (1st right) joins his fellow contestants on stage



Professor Muhammad Sani Sule (2nd left in green cap) greets other contestants on being called to the stage



Prof Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman (1st right) joins his fellow contestants on stage



Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam (1st right) seated with fellow contestants Prof Muhammad Yahuza Bello and Prof Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman

48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



Electoral Committee certifying ballot papers after unsealing them



Officials distributing ballot papers to members of the Congregation



Officials distributing ballot papers to Contestants, (left to right) Prof. Danladi Yalwa, Prof M.D Suleiman, Prof M.Y. Bello and Prof. Y.O. Imam



Members casting their ballots in open baskets



Officials man the boxes of different candidates awaiting ballots during the count



Chairman Electoral Committee Dr Ado M Bello, declaring an invalid vote during the counting process



48th Congregation Meeting & Parley



Dr Ado M Bello, Electoral Committee Chairman declaring the result of the ballot



Prof Yusuf Adamu of the Geography Department, reading the Resolutions of the Congregation meeting, as Chairman, Resolutions Committee



ASUU National President and Director Centre for Renewable Energy Research, Dr Nasir Fagge with the VC, Prof. A.A. Rasheed



The VC, Prof. A.A. Rasheed (1st left) in discussion with Prof. Haruna Wakili of History Department, outside the venue of the meeting

BUK Alumni Association Fundraising & Reunion Dinner, 1st August, 2015



Prof Yahuza Bello, right in hand shake with Secretary General of the Alumni, Prof Habu Muhammad Fagge



Members of the higher table reading the National Anthem as the occasion commences



National President, BUK Alumni, Muhammad Dattijo Usman presenting welcome address



Hon Farouk Lawan making brief remarks at the occasion



Prof Saddiq Isah Radda presenting address on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Abubakar Adamu Rasheed



Guest Speaker, Professor Chidi Odinkalu delivering his paper



BUK Alumni Association Fundraising & Reunion Dinner, 1st August, 2015



From left, Alh Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar (Mairago), Dr Bala Muhammad and Mustapha Gide



From left, BUK Alumni General Secretary, Rilwanu Ahmed Bello, Alumni Legal Adviser, Barrister Mika Anaphe and Professor Habu Muhammad Fagge



From left, SUG President, BUK, Yuguda Abdul'aziz, Muh'd Sani and Engr. Farouk Ibrahim



From right, Prof. Yahuza Bello; SSG, Kano State, Dr Rabi'u Suleiman and President BUK Alumni, Muhd Dattijo Usman serving themselves



National Treasurer BUK Alumni, Haj. Halima Musa Dangiwa, left in hand shake with Haj Fatima Lawal Rafin Dadi



Some female Alumni busy with chicken during dinner

2015 BUK VC CAMPAIGN AND THE USE OF NEW MEDIA

While marvelling at the novel use of the new media in the campaign for the Vice Chancellorship post, **Lamara Garba** warns that its misuse must be checked to safeguard its future use to enhance democratic mobilisation

New Media are those forms of communication in the digital world, which includes publishing on CDs, DVDs and, most significantly, over the Internet. It implies that the user obtains the material via desktop and laptop computers, smartphones and tablets. In other words it is the concept that new methods of communicating in the digital world allow smaller groups of people to congregate online and share, sell and swap goods and information. It also allows more people to have a voice in their community and in the world in general via short message service (SMS) and other forms of communication including emails, Whatsapp, LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook, among others.

Therefore, the emergence of this form of communication has undoubtedly eased with the process through which people now communicate to a large and heterogeneous audiences almost simultaneously and with high probability of instantaneous feedback.

This 21st century advanced innovation in the area of mass communication, is an one, with its positive and negative sides alike. Unlike the traditional mediated channel of communication in which the communicator and the medium are traceable and or seen clearly and almost known by all, these new media platforms have the potency in some cases of allowing the sender to hide his/her identity or even create difficulty in tracing the identity of the message sender using software or hardware based techniques.

No wonder therefore, during the electioneering campaign among the various contenders to the seat of the Vice Chancellorship of Bayero University, the new media and other social networks were maximally utilized to garner support and woo potential 'voters' at the congregational parley

which is an avenue for candidates to test their popularity and acceptability among the members of the University community.

Perhaps the frequency and the velocity with which messages in a digital forms were being sent out to potential 'delegates' to the periodical 'convention' of the University community, is certainly indicative of the fact that the university community attach a great premium to the congregational parley in the selection process of a Vice Chancellor.

Certainly, the adoption of new media as part of campaign strategy by the contestants greatly contributed in the mobilization of the members of the University community as well as influencing the outcome of the ranking exercise. However, the content of the messages is the one that does the magic. In particular, the candidate with the most reasonable and most appealing choice of words as well as genuine promises devoid of triviality, hatred and envy triumphed over the others.

Indeed, the drama and humour which those messages sent through the new digital media, created around the contenders undoubtedly added value to the whole exercise while on the other hand, the negative and or use of harsh languages and derogatory wordings as adopted by some overzealous loyalists of certain candidates if unchecked, may have the tendency to destabilise the goodwill and the unity among the University community, which the original concept of adopting congregational parley sought to uphold, as part of the internal process of selection of a Vice Chancellor, uniquely practiced by Bayero University, Kano.

Lamara Garba is Senior Assistant Registrar, Directorate of Public Affairs, Office of the Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano.

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History is an almost imperceptible process, akin to the passage of time, marked only by milestones. Once in a while, certain events that represent a whiff of change jolt us awake and give us a glimpse of the turning wheel of history. Sometimes, events that appear to be normal occurrences turn out to have wider impact and reverberate through history.

The Bayero University innovative Parley, during Congregation meetings, with prospective aspirants to the high office of Vice Chancellor every five years, is one such milestone.

The seismic change in the appointment of Vice Chancellors of Federal Universities introduced during the President Umaru Yar'adua administration is still percolating into the fabric of the educational structures in Nigeria, particularly the Universities. Trendsetters like Bayero University have, however, already taken the next evolutionary but democratic step of widening popular participation of the University Community in the process of the selection of Vice Chancellors. This is how it should be. Universities exist to serve as guides and solution providers to the larger society, be it on term limits or democratic governance, upholding high moral principles and meritocracy, or promoting transparency and inclusiveness in public affairs.

It is with this realisation that this special edition of **BUK TODAY** saw it fit to assemble elements, views and analysis that will shed light, explain and expound the import and possible benefit of this radical or revolutionary development, depending on one's perspective. Although, as was observed in one of the write-ups, our puny empowerment of the University Community represents a mere footnote in other intellectual climes, where similar bodies have legal backing to determine who heads the University, and can remove them too, for lack of performance or when found wanting.

In addition to wide ranging exploration of the democratisation of University governance, this edition carries the Director of Academic Planning, Professor Bala Sidi Aliyu's primer on research resources and sources of funding. Indeed, starting from the basics will ensure that a firm foundation is laid for the coming overhaul of the research orientation of the University to make it truly a Centre of Excellence in Research.

Another interesting issue explored in this edition of **BUK TODAY** is the return of the much celebrated former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Attahiru Jega.

Setting Agenda for the New Vice Chancellor

Whosoever becomes the new Vice Chancellor of BUK in August 2015 would be confronted with the very high expectations of the University Community, as **Mustapha Gide** found out when he sampled the views of a cross section of the members of the Congregation

Sociologists believe that the station to assigned to humans in society can be either an achieved or ascribed status. In a University setup, academic and non-teaching staff attain greatness through the emblem of achieved status, associated with perseverance and hard work. The fact that the tenure of the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed expires by 18th August, 2015 meant that a new Vice Chancellor would emerge through various processes which had commenced in earnest with the setting up of the Selection Committee, Search Team and eventual Parley which took place on Tuesday, 17th July, 2015. The new Vice Chancellor would finally emerge with the endorsement of the University Governing Council.

Challenges are inevitable in life and they can be varied. Some challenges of leadership succession come about, because successors inherited a failed agenda, in which case, the incoming Management inherits colossal problems to the extent of not knowing with which to start; while others faced challenges because their predecessors have such an overwhelming record of achievement, their lot would be to maintain the existing tempo. In Bayero University, where the outgoing Vice Chancellor had gotten the Congregation's Standing Ovation, for his much talked about achievements, the greatest challenge for his successor is how to maintain the tempo, going by what Professor Emeritus Emmanuel Olofin said, when he applauded the Vice Chancellor during one of the Congregation meetings: "I am sorry for the person succeeding Professor Abubakar Rasheed as Vice Chancellor of Bayero University".

Nevertheless, even in the personal life of an individual, problems never end. No matter how rich, how academically excelled, how healthy, one's problems end only after bidding farewell to the material world. Bayero University like other institutions will only be free of problems when it comes to an end through whatever means just as the problems in the best rated world varsities such as Harvard and its like will not end till they cease to

exist.

Despite the enormous development and transformations in Bayero University, the incoming Vice Chancellor will inherit a lot of problems and of course new ones will emerged. The incumbent Vice Chancellor at many occasions did not hide his feelings on the problems that bedevil the University and many of them were inherited from the previous managements.

The issue of water and electricity have been the most worrisome on the University's permanent site at Dan'bare, Gwarzo Road. It came to a point when the Vice Chancellor declared: "if I knew drilling 100 boreholes in the New Campus will end our water problem I will not hesitate to carry out the project". The New Campus, housing majority of staff and students is at disadvantaged as far as water supply is concerned due to its geological structure. The water supply from the state water board is almost zero and to end the water problem according to the Vice Chancellor, the University may have to lay pipes from Tiga dam, crossing five local governments, which at the moment is not feasible.

Bayero University was also unlucky to be the only University in Nigeria that spends millions of Naira monthly to fuel its generators. At one meeting of the Conference of Vice Chancellors of Nigeria Universities, where every Vice Chancellor narrated his/her challenges, it was only Professor Abubakar Rasheed that spoke about his epic battles with the power problem. The reason was that all Universities with the exception of the most recent ones were on electricity blue-line. The Universities had arranged with the then NEPA to enjoy the 18 to 20 hour guaranteed blue-line services when the nation's power famine became manifest years ago; the then Management in Bayero University, busy attending to other problems had not made such an effort, and now access to the service has been prohibited as a policy.

Other challenges had to do with teaching and research facilities, accommodation problems for both staff and students, problem of adequate internet

connectivity which is yet to be overcome despite huge investment, lack of overhead and capital funds from the federal government and lack of adequate resources to fund research.

The University Community had much to say on the challenges and of course the agenda they set for the incoming Vice Chancellor as follows:

According to **Professor Abdalla Uba Adamu of the Department of Mass Communication**, the outgoing Vice Chancellor has performed very well, however, the incoming Vice Chancellor needs to be revolutionary rather than evolutionary, meaning coming up with new programmes that will strengthen the intellectual culture. The new Vice Chancellor should promote linkages with overseas

Sciences, opined that the incoming Vice Chancellor should continue with the good policies the academic and non academic staff are so used to with the outgoing Vice Chancellor, he listens to staff and help them out of their problems. The incoming Vice Chancellor had to fully integrate with the University Community. The outgoing Vice Chancellor is a formidable campaigner on reaching out to get things for the University; therefore the incoming VC should build upon this. The outgoing Vice Chancellor had done a lot especially as regards to employing womenfolk but the incoming VC should to be also gender sensitive on everything he does and whatever is going on in the University, he should build up the academic and non-academic



Prof. Uba Abdallah (first left) of Mass Communications Department; with the Head of Department of Architecture, Dr. Umar and Malam Umar Sani Hanga of the CIT

universities, facilitate internationalisation of research collaboration and research networks; create a dynamic mentoring structure whereby older Professors mentor the younger academics to help them grow; create more conference opportunities within the campuses so that instead of staff going to other Universities for conferences others will come to Bayero University, by empowering Departments, Faculties, Schools and Centres to host international conferences. The outgoing Vice Chancellor had fully developed the University, however building on his record will singled out Bayero University pushing it within the World First Class Universities.

Professor Ghaji Abubakar Badawi of the Department of Library and Information

female staff capacity.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Makarfi, Managing Director BUK Microfinance Bank said the incumbent Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed has performed tremendously in many areas including expansion of access, staff development, establishment of Faculties, Departments, provision of infrastructure etc. What the incoming Vice Chancellor needs to continue is to raise the quality of services; quality of the products especially issues to do with research. Consolidation should be the focus, quality assurance, sustenance and maintaining the system. Despite massive infrastructural development made by the outgoing Vice Chancellor, the Faculty of Social and

Management Sciences for instance still needs more lecture rooms, as challenges will never end, he concluded.

The Public Relations Officer, SUG, Musibullah Dahiru Abdu opined that the outgoing Vice Chancellor had done very well on staff students' relations, hoping for its continuity. He calls for the completion of all ongoing projects, sustenance of the existing facilities including generators and street lightening. He explained the need to develop a platform that will stop students from examination malpractices rather than allowing them to cheat and be expelled. The incoming Vice Chancellor should also ensure the installation of all basic facilities such as electronic boards, which are yet to reach some places and address problems to do with the University portal for students to have ample time for registration. He called on the new VC to address of the lingering problem faced by many innocent students forced to go on suspension of studies because of problems of portal downtime. Issues pertaining water and other Municipal Services should also be addressed, he added.

Farida Sani Kamba of the International Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance (IIBF), spoke on the need to usher-in gender equality, pointing out the inability of the Search Team for the New Vice Chancellor to search for a single candidate from within the womenfolk despite experienced women Professor in the University. She also opined that the incoming Vice Chancellor should bridge the

existing gap between the teaching and non-teaching staff so that more recognition be given to non-teaching staff on issues pertaining fellowship, training etc. He should relax and accommodate suggestions from staff and be open minded in his decisions making just like the outgoing Vice Chancellor.

Altine Maryam Ali of the Directorate of General Administration opined that by the growing number of female staff, the incoming

Vice Chancellor should imbibe the culture of fair female representation on all activities in the University. She also said the outgoing Vice Chancellor has done well on infrastructure; the incoming should concentrate on landscaping, beautification, greening and completion of the ongoing projects.

A female lecturer at the Faculty of Computer and Information Technology, who spoke to BUK TODAY on anonymity, observed that the major challenge before the incoming Vice Chancellor is on employing experts to teach the numerous programmes on ground, stressing that as much as we want the University to grow, if we create Departments and Programmes without the adequate expertise it will hurt the University. In the interest of quality, she said the incoming Vice Chancellor should build on the existing effort by sourcing experts through part-time, visiting and contract staff, to manage new programmes and Departments without neglecting to equip laboratories etc.



The contestants: Professors MD Suleiman (1st right), YO Imam, MY Bello, M Abdullahi, AA Audu, KS Fage and MS Sule

Nurturing Relationships

With Bayero University's avowed aim of becoming a Centre of Excellence in Research, **the Director of Academic Planning, Prof. Bala Sidi Aliyu** brings us up to speed on key resources useful to all researchers with this handy primer

Research Resources And Sources of Funding

Research is a very significant aspect of academic pursuits, thus its importance cannot be over emphasized; there is a common saying that 'you either publish or you perish' if you are in the academic world, a basic tool of publishing is research, the outcome of which is published either as a journal article, book, or through other means. Access to published data is a basic requirement of researchers; it affords them an ability to know the extent of research findings in a particular area(s) and the area where there is a dearth of knowledge; this is the main reason why databases are of utmost importance. In addition to databases, funding is also critical to many research efforts and thus while one conceives a research the source of funding the research must also be at the forefront.



Professor Bala Sidi Aliyu,
Director, Academic Planning

The purpose of this write-up is to remind readers of the existence of these research databases or resources and the funding opportunities available for research, which we may not be adequately utilizing or are unaware of.

A. University Library

The Bayero University, Kano, library has a lot of print and electronic resources which are available for use by researchers. The e-resources or academic databases that can be accessed either on-line or offline are numerous and contains millions of theses, books and journals; some of these include:

(i) Elsevier Science Direct: a reputable

scientific database that offers book chapters and journal articles from more than 2, 500 peer-reviewed journals and book titles in excess of 25,000. Users can use it effectively to access content relevant to their research area using the sophisticated search and retrieval functionality that the database offers.

(ii) JSTOR: this is a digital library created in 1995 to offer digitized back issues of academic journals published before the digital age. However, currently it includes current issues of close 2,000 full-text journals and books.

(iii) HINARI: this database was launched in 2002 and it consist of about 1500 journals sourced from 6 major publishers: Elsevier Science, Blackwell, Wolters Kluwer International Health and Science, the Harcourt Worldwide STM Group, Springer Verlag and John Wiley. However, the number of contributing publishers and journals has now increased to more than 180 partners offering as much as 42,000 information resources.

(iv) EBSCOHOST: this is a site of 375 full-text databases with a collection of more than 600,000 ebooks and journals.

(v) Indiana University Press: also known as IU Press partners with JSTOR to provide an accessible database of current and archival publications from the University press's journals available to users on the JSTOR platform. IU Press 25 scholarly journals are in African studies, poetry, art, Jewish and Middle East cultural studies, education and environmental ethics.

(vi) African Digital Library: this is a database



Jatropha Biodiesel Pilot Plant that earned BUK the first position in Science and Technology aspect of the Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDEF) in 2010 at University of Nsukka.

of electronic (eBooks) and other resources. With a collection of 9808 titles, 4 titles of audio books and 3487 publically accessible titles, the African Digital Library covers a wide variety of subject areas ranging from arts; crafts astronomy, to mathematics, technology and engineering, medicine, health and education.

(vii) AGORA: this stands for 'Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture'; it is a programme set up by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations together with some major publishers. The aim is to afford developing countries access to a database of fields of agriculture, food, environmental science and some related social sciences. Up to 6,100 journals and 5,800 books are available on the database.

Offline databases available in the library include the eGranary, OCW, Compact Discs, Lanteal, etc.

All the databases can be accessed through user names and passwords available at the Automation

Unit of the main library of the University.

B. Research Grants

The Bayero University has a research committee, which receives applications from eligible members of the University community, recommends funding and dispatches letters of allocations to beneficiaries. Information on this can be obtained either through the members of the research committee either at the Departmental level or Faculty. For other grants outside the University such as TetFUND, PTDF, etc. The Research committee can also be approached for information on eligibility and mode of application.

C. Others

Other sources of research grants abound, these may be towards a graduate degree, such as Masters or Doctorate, or simply for a non-degree research. A simple Google search will reveal thousands of opportunities, which one can browse and apply for.

Applicants can also apply for scholarships to bodies such as the following:

1. Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarships
http://www.mofat.gov.bn/Pages/BDScholarship_2014_2015.aspx
2. Australia Award Scholarship
<http://australiaawardsindo.or.id>
3. Turkey Government Scholarship
<http://www.turkiyeburslari.gov.tr/index.php/en>
4. General Cultural Scholarship, India
<http://www.iccrindia.net/generalscheme.html>
5. Utrecht University, Netherlands
<http://www.uu.nl/en>
6. University of Twente Scholarship, Netherlands.
<http://www.utwente.nl/internationalstudents/scholarshipsandgrants/all/uts/>
7. Chinese Government Scholarship.
<http://www.csc.edu.cn/laihua/scholarshipdetailen.aspx?>
8. Swedish Scholarships
<https://studyinsweden.se/Scholarships/>
9. King Abdulaziz University Scholarship, Saudi Arabia.
<http://www.dgsscholarship.kau.edu.sa/Default.aspx?>
10. Fulbright Fellowship Program, U.S.A.
<http://www.iie.org/fulbright>

Prof. Bala Sidi Aliyu is the Director, Directorate of Academic Planning, Bayero University, Kano.

Return to the Classroom: Prof Jega's Challenge to Nigerian Professionals

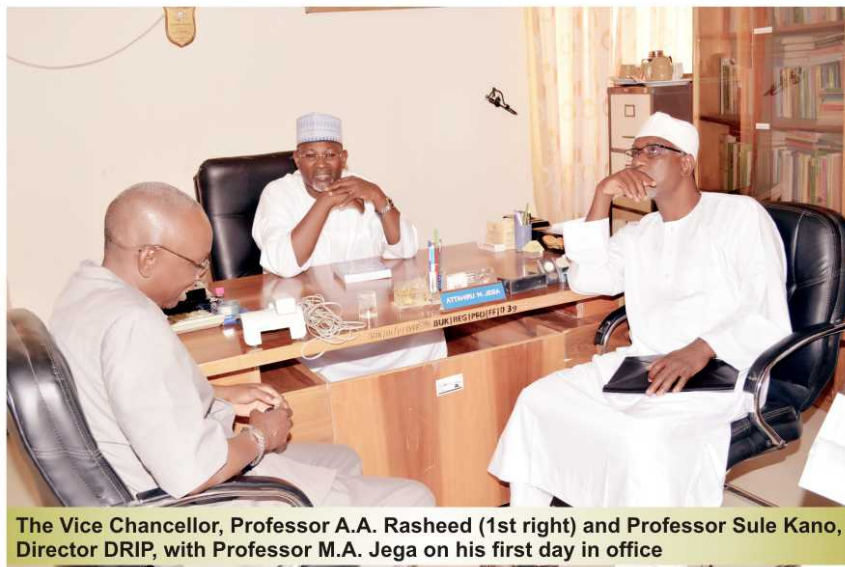
The love of teaching, research and community service specifically in Bayero University has compelled many a staff to return to the classroom from a high profile political and professional appointment as Minister, Presidential Adviser, Commissioner, Managing Director, Chairman or Executive Secretary of a parastatal, therefore **Nura Garba** probes the philosophical and policy implication of this phenomena using Professor Attahiru Jega as a case study

The immediate past Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega, OFR returned to Bayero University, Kano after spending five years as Nigeria's electoral umpire. Jega's return was greeted with a rousing reception

by members of staff and students, who welcomed him as a hero and champion of Nigeria's march towards democratic consolidation. In a clime where professionals hardly go back to their professions after holding public office, Professor Jega, resumed his teaching profession at the Department of Political Science.

Professor Jega had on several occasions reiterated his willingness and determination to return to classroom after the expiration of his tenure. This feat was seen by many Nigerians and commentators of national issues as rare for prominent people to return to their normal professions after completing their national assignments. But Jega, against all odds returned to the classroom. He even said that he was absolutely obsessed with the pleasure of teaching, research and community services.

Before Professor Jega, there were many Nigerian professionals who after tasting the perks of public office (elective or appointive) refused to go back to their professions at the expiration of their tenure. They rather continue to hang on in the corridors of power, and are ready to stoop to anything to remain visible. There are also few of them who have quietly returned to their professions after concluding national



The Vice Chancellor, Professor A.A. Rasheed (1st right) and Professor Sule Kano, Director DRIP, with Professor M.A. Jega on his first day in office

assignment. But obviously and frankly, the majority of the latter are among the academics.

When Professor Jega returned precisely on 6th July, 2015 and was accompanied to his Department of Political Science by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, the

former INEC boss told a congregation of staff members that he was itching to return to classroom.

He said "I love teaching and teaching is my passion, I like intellectual life to interact with students and to further develop my academic career. At INEC I reflected all these five years as an ambassador of Bayero University. I am happy that we have not done anything to disappoint you and Nigerians. It wasn't easy but we made it categorically clear to Nigerians from day one that it was not impossible to do the right thing for the best of our country," Jega said. He challenged the political scientists to rise up to the challenges of contemporary political dimension, thereby contributing positively to the country's political dynamism.

"As political scientists, we have a lot to do not just to study and understand political dynamism of Nigeria but also to contribute to what we can to critique, strengthen or conceptualize policy that could benefit the country. I am happy now to come back to critique and make analysis rather than be a bashing boy of Nigeria's politicians," he remarked.

To many greedy Nigerians, Prof. Jega should not have come back to his old profession, because being a prominent figure in Nigeria, he should rather renew

his appointment or lobby for political appointment. But Jega had made it categorically clear that Bayero University would be his destination after the expiration of his tenure, a development that was seen by some people as commendable.

Former Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and Chancellor, Bauchi State University, Professor Ango Abdullahi in an interview he conducted in *The Guardian* Newspaper during his 76th Birthday, recently, said “I have always condemned situation where academics leave the ivory tower in droves to serve as aides to their past students that are occupying elective or appointive public office or serve in public offices, only to fail to return to their work together. It is a very dangerous and degrading act that has affected our education development so much. Jega's return is highly commendable and worthy of emulation. He will have his integrity and honor intact and contribute immensely in the development of the younger generation.

“He left the university to national assignment with a leave of absence and returned at the expiration of his first term. He has not attained the university retirement age. He didn't lobby as usual or expected re-appointment for second term in office. The academic community and Nigerians will ever remain proud of him,” the Professor concluded.

Prof. Ango Abdullahi's emphasis on Jega's integrity is highly commendable, given that most of the public office holders have their integrity shredded after completing their tenure. Even during his nomination and final approval given by the National Council of State in 2010-2011, his integrity was the key.

During the 2015 Presidential Elections, Nigerians had put him under the spotlight, to see whether he would compromise his integrity. But reactions from a broad spectrum of political leaders and organizations were positive. He faced criticism during the campaigning for the elections both from the oppositions and the ruling party. Nonetheless, a 23rd March 2015 article in Vanguard Newspaper said “most experts believe Jega will seek to declare an accurate result as quietly as possible, regardless of any interference he may face.”

Prof. Jega did not only prove the book makers wrong but went further to conduct what pundits believe is one of the most freest and fairest elections ever conducted in the history of Nigeria.

The Vice Chancellor of BUK, Professor Rasheed told the former INEC umpire during his official return to the university that as a result of the credible conduct of the 2015 general elections, Nigerians in the Diaspora are receiving special attention and recognition. He said the entire university community and Nigerians were proud of what Jega did for reforming the electoral institution and changing the concept of elections in the minds of average Nigerians.

Shortly after Professor Jega's return, he was nominated as winner of this year's edition of the Charles T. Mannet Democracy Award. He is expected to receive the award at an elaborate ceremony in Washington D.C on September 29. The award would be presented to him by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) which is based in the U.S. Three individuals are honored each year in these categories: one U.S Democrat, one Republican and a member of the international community, who demonstrate unwavering commitment to democracy and human rights.

Prof. Jega was chosen for leading INEC to conduct one of the most credible elections in Nigeria's history, even in the face of intimidation and sabotage by some of his own staff and officials of the past administration.

President of IFES and CEO, Bill Sweeney, said Prof Jega's leadership was instrumental to Nigeria's successful general elections in 2015. “He deserves full credit for his efforts to increase the credibility and transparency of the electoral process under extreme logistical challenges, such as terrorist threats of Boko Haram, where failure could prove the catalyst for predicted election violence”.

The former INEC boss is now back in Bayero University and is ready to offer more teaching, research and community services, having spent five years as the country's electoral umpire. His practical experiences of Nigeria's political dynamism will surely benefit the students, the university community and Nigerians at large. In an interview recently with Nura Garba on what the university community should expect from him, Professor Jega said the university should expect the very best from him.

Indeed, Professor Jega's return has marked another milestone in the academia and challenged professionals who are saddled with the responsibilities of high public offices to return to their profession and continue to offer more services in the environment that also need them the most. In an academic environment like ours, it will be a brain waste to lose high profile Professors and PhD holders to the corridors of power even at the expiration of their tenure. Rather they should return to impact positively their experiences.

Jega's return to Bayero University is a welcome development. He returned at the time when the university has transformed virtually all its physical facilities and improved quality of teaching and research, as well as introduced new faculties, departments, centers and is on the rise to becoming one of the best universities not only in Nigeria but in Africa.

Nura Garba is an Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.

In an inspiring lecture on the great responsibility of alumni of Nigerian Universities to their *alma mater* at the BUK Alumni Reunion Dinner and Fundraising, Prof. Chidi Anselm Odinkalu challenged Nigerians to imbibe the culture of giving back and **Mustapha Gide** reports that over 10 million Naira was also raised at the occasion

BUK Alumni Fund Raising: A Day with Prof Chidi and Alumnus

Professor Chidi Anselm Odinkalu, Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission on Saturday 1st August, 2015, during Bayero University Alumni Fund Raising Dinner at Nnamdi Azikwe Hall, NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja challenged the Alumni Associations in Nigeria of not living up to expectations, enumerating that Bayero University Alumni had everything to make the University the best in the country, going by the opportunities surrounded the University.

Professor Chidi, who was a guest speaker, in his paper titled **The Role of Alumni in the Development of the University System** said University endowments are mostly investments by Alumni but the endowment culture in Nigeria remains very poor. He said donating funds for projects, research, curriculum etc are very necessary with Bayero University located in Nigeria's most integrated city, one of the busiest cities and a major site of entrepreneurship and innovation in the country.

He listed five issues being the dominant areas of concern, which include the role of the Alumnus in the position of responsibility that can be handled even without an association, saying however, the Alumni association enhances the exercise and has a duty to ensure institutions' advancement.

Secondly, Alumni had to promote academic excellence, going beyond projects execution, fostering foundations and traditions of lasting intangible investments. Alumni, he said had a duty to preserve, defend and advance ideas.

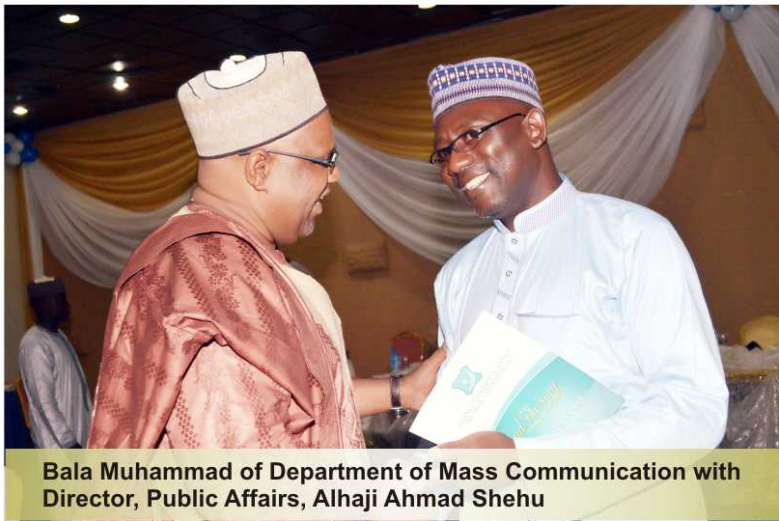
Thirdly, Alumni have responsibilities going beyond the walls and gates of their respective Universities. To a fractured country, they owe a duty of healing; to a fearful people, fostering a robust, tolerant worldview, of reassurance. The Alumni he believed had a duty to preserve the 'Universe' in the 'University' where, to borrow the immortal words of Rabindranath Tagore: 'the mind



Guest Speaker, Prof Chidi Odinkalu delivering his paper

is without fear and the head is held high; where knowledge is free; where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls'.

Fourthly, good tertiary education remains the best meal ticket and best guarantor of economic and social mobility. Both Islam and Christianity agree that unequal access to knowledge produces unequal opportunities. Citing a verse in the Holy Quran: 'Are those who know and who do not know equal?'. He elaborated on Khaled Abou El Fadl's comment, 'in the symbolic universe of Islam, ignorance is *kufir*, and a dead intellect is equated with the darkness of a dead soul.' He also cited Prophet Isaiah 'therefore my people go into exile for want of knowledge: their honoured men are dying of hunger, and their multitude is parched with thirst.' Portraying the economic advantages



Bala Muhammad of Department of Mass Communication with Director, Public Affairs, Alhaji Ahmad Shehu

the knowledgeable ones possessed in advanced countries, he challenged Alumni in Nigeria to rise to their responsibility by beginning to make a difference in the University that provided them meal tickets.

And finally, University as a place for ideas requires a new partnership model between the University and those who believe in the idea of society founded on enlightenment. Alumnus in this respect has a great role to play.

With changing context of tertiary education delivery from the first generation and second generation Universities, there are now private and states Universities as well. The federal and states Universities are endangered by fiscal consolidation while the footprint of private Universities is growing quite fast. By this, the federal and state Universities are now under pressure to diversify their sources of support if they are to justify their existence and continue in business, saying for Universities such as Bayero University, the Alumni network is an obvious advantage to press into service, he observed.

However, at this critical period he said, the University being a service provider should know that investing in the service provision ethic requires a different mind-set to run a University. It requires trained staff to cultivate students and their families, investing in relationship building that could last more than a lifetime. Therefore, every University must define and offer value to its community of applicants and students. If such value exists he believed it is easier to build partnership with Alumni in sustaining and growing the brand. However, where such does not exist Alumni have the duty to help in

defining that brand.

Alumni he said should among other things should be sources of skill, expertise, and experience for the University: mentors, role models and lodestars of existing and incoming students; facilitators for new graduates in professional and societal circles; 'Rainmakers' and international ambassadors who bring home their own friends because of the school they went to; and be the most loyal supporters and advocates for the cause of the University and of education as a public good. The 21st century developments on Information Technology necessitates that data-basing of Alumni must begin while they are students and contact should remain a lifelong experience.

Also speaking at the occasion, the President, Bayero University Alumni Association, Muhammad Datti Usman revealed that state chapters have been formed in Abuja, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi and Niger states; Kaduna and Kano have Caretaker Leaders already. He urged other states to come up with their chapters because without the chapters it is doubtful if any mileage can be achieved. He believed Universities all over the world exist to engender support from members of the Alumni and thereby improve the prestige, academic content and good image of their *alma mater*. He mentioned that NEC has looked at the strategic plan of Bayero University and resolved to do something on short, medium and long term deliverables.

The BUK Alumni, he said, would improve amongst others the sanitation on the University premises, ease inter-campus transportation by supplying commuter busses, and build an e-lecture



Prof Yahuza Bello in a pleasant hand shake with BUK Alumni President, Muhammad Dattijo Usman (1st right)

theatre/auditorium and construct an Alumni resources centre for use of staff and students in order to promote excellence in pedagogy and welfare of the members of the University Community.

The President disclosed that a seven-man electoral committee has been constituted with Alhaji Abubakar idris Udu as Chairman and it will be inaugurated in Birnin-kebbi in September this year to facilitate election of new Alumni leaders, the pioneer set having served for two years. The national convention is scheduled December 5th, 2015 at Bayero University, Kano.

Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rashed, MFR has implore members of the University Alumni across the country to visit the five campuses of Bayero University and see the progress recorded within the last few years.

Professor Rasheed who was represented at the Fund Raising Dinner by Deputy Vice Chancellor



Professor Sadiq Isah Radda, DVC, Admin receives plaque on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Rasheed

(Administration), Professor Sadiq Isah Radda, said with what is on ground in the University, the Alumni members should be encouraged to also give in their best in sustaining and enhancing the University.

The Vice Chancellor said Alumni members need to visit the University and see how the Management had executed physical development, staff development, students' welfare and an entire transformation of its outlook. At the ceremony, over 10 million Naira was collected, the highest donation of five million Naira came from Alhaji Abdussamad Isyaka

Rabi'u; Alhaji Yusuf Hamisu Abubakar Mairago donated two million Naira; Kano state government one million Naira; former governor of Niger state, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu one million Naira and former Deputy Governor of Katsina state, Barrister Abdullahi Faskari one million Naira amongst others, while the chief launcher Alhaji Aliko Dangote speaking through a representative pledged to make a donation.



A group photograph comprising Alumni leaders and members, BUK SUG and BUK staff shortly after the occasion



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When AA Rasheed Departs

By Sheriff A. Ahmed



When AA Rasheed departs, it'll be time to depart
The departure that has been destined to happen
The destiny that has characterized the leader apart
The leader whose leadership tenure all enjoyed
The tenure destined to last this far and all seem aghast
But such is life that man cannot deny nor denounce.

No condition, they say, is permanent
So, yes, AA Rasheed must indeed depart
Not because people want him to depart
No, not because his tenure was in shambles
No, not because the community he has served rejects him
It is, simply, time for him to depart.

A leadership fulfilled, a leadership guided by wit and wisdom
Bayero University, Kano the centre of this happenstance
An institution only one of its kind
Led by AA for five long years of transformation
Will soon bewail the departure of one of its own
One who has transformed it to a centre of excellence.

A man of the people AA has always been
A kind-hearted being very rare to come by in this age of gluttony
A big-hearted figure that's ever ready to help
Even when conditions seem impossible to behold
A compassionate gentleman who hardly says no
When approached for one thing or another.

BUK, my BUK, our BUK
AA Rasheed, my boss, our VC, our pride
Deserves the approbation of one and all
For a remarkable leadership style and the progress of BUK
And so, again, deserves not only the prayers of all,
But also the forgiveness of all for accidentally stepping on toes.

As he bows out today for a sojourn elsewhere
Though he's promised to come back home soon
We wish him our Creator's protection and guidance
We wish him good health and successes
We wish him all he wishes for himself
Now and forever more.



The Day Hadejia Stoodstill for The New Dan Masani

In appreciation of his selfless service to his people and to humanity, the Hadejia Emirate has honoured one of its sons, Alhaji Tijjani Musa Isa, with the title of Dan Masani, **Bala G. Abdullahi**, who was in Hadejia saw the pomp and pageantry of the occasion in full colour

Saturday the 1st of August, 2015, will remain indelible in the minds of the people of the ancient city of Hadejia in Jigawa State. For it was the day all roads led to the Palace of the Emir, Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Maje Haruna for the turbaning ceremony of one of Hadejia's illustrious son, Alhaji Tijjani Musa Isa, as the 2nd DanMasani of Hadejia. The title was first held by the celebrant's elder Brother, Dr. Lawan Hadejia who incidentally was the 1st DanMasani before his demise about two years ago.

The mammoth crowd that converge on the palace to witness the epoch making event could only be compared with the turbaning ceremonies of celebrities and in some cases the installation of emirs. It was also a clear testimony of the acceptability of the new DanMasani by not only the people of Hadejia Emirate, but also by friends, well wishers, associates and even passersby who defied the scorching sun and harassment of the security to be part of history.

The roll call of dignitaries who attended the occasion was highly impressive, from captains of industries, to senior civil servants, politicians, members of the academia and others from all walk of lives. Bayero University was represented at the occasion by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, *mni*, **MFR**, in company of the Registrar, Sani Ibrahim Amin, MNIM and the Bursar, Alhaji Buhari Musa as well as the immediate past Jigawa State Commissioner of Education, Professor Haruna Wakili who has since returned to BUK to continue to do what he said he loves doing best, teaching and research. Others are: Alhaji Sani Zangon Daura, the



The celebrant being congratulated by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed

DanMasanin Daura and former Minister of Agriculture; Senator Rufa'i Hanga; Alhaji Gambo Sale, Chief Registrar; Malam Adamu Adamu the famous Daily Trust Columnist; Alhaji Ahmad Mora, and Alhaji Aliyu Barde, member of Barewa Class '70 among many others.

The occasion actually commenced at exactly 11.30am, when the Emir made his way into the traditional court room where both the District Heads and other title holders often pay him homage. It is also in the court room that the emir receives important dignitaries on visit to the palace. Immediately the Emir got seated at the court room, District heads came in one after the order to pay homage to him. Important dignitaries who came to the palace to witness the turbaning of the new DanMasani took their turn after the District Heads. As soon as the exercise was over, the Palace spokesman announced that in line with the tradition, all District Heads are to leave the court room and proceed to the coronation arena for the turbaning ceremony of the new

DanMasani. They all responded and 30 minutes later, they returned to the court room with the new DanMasani in turban signifying that the coronation has taken place.

Strategically seated at the centre of District Heads in the Court Room facing the emir, the new DanMasani listens with rapt attention as the Emir, admonishes: “As DanMasani of Hadeija, you have not only succeeded your late brother, but you have also become a bonafide member of this Emirate Council. I can assign you to represent me anywhere in the country or even outside Nigeria, and as such, you must be seen to abide by our tradition, culture and all the laws governing the conduct of District Heads and title holders in the emirate.” He equally told the new DanMasani to obey constituted authorities be it at local, state or Federal level, saying that he would personally monitor the conduct of the celebrant to ensure it did not go contrary to “our culture and tradition”. “Your appointment was informed by your sense of honesty, selflessness, dedication to the cause of your people and above all the fear of Allah which you often display in all your dealings,” the Emir remarked.

He advised the new DanMasani to continue to be honest, sincere and treat all his people fairly, adding that “as the most senior in the family, you must embrace all your siblings without showing any preference. We are fully aware of the assistance and support you have been personally extending to the people of Hadeija, I urge you to maintain the tempo and even extend same to other fellow beings, and surely, Allah will reward you most abundantly”.

At the end of the Emir’s sermon, the District Heads mounted their Horses back in pomp and pageantry and accompanied the new DanMasani to his house located in the heart of Hadeija town.

The new DanMasani was born in Hadeija town in the year 1956. He began his elementary education in 1965 when he enrolled at Central Primary School, Dalla and completed it in 1969. In 1970, he went to the famous Barewa College

Zaria, and came out with flying colours in 1974. He gained admission in 1974/75 into the then Abdullahi Bayero College (ABC/ABU). After the completion of the ABC/ABU programme in 1975, he enrolled for a degree programme at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and graduated in 1978 with a BSc Degree in Accountancy. After the mandatory Youth Service, he got employed by the then Bank of the North (BON) in 1979. He worked for only one year and in 1980 he went to Britain for higher studies and on his return, he set up one of the most successful Chattered Auditing firm with head office in Kaduna with branches in most Northern states.

Speaking to *BUK TODAY*, the Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Professor Abubakar



The celebrant on horseback, being escorted home after the coronation

Adamu Rasheed who is the celebrant’s bosom friend described Alhaji Tijjani’s appointment as the 2nd DanMasani of Hadeija as putting a square peg in a square hole. He said the new DanMasani is a disciplinarian, an honest, sincere and God fearing person who has excelled in his chosen career. The passion he has for not only supporting his people and colleagues, but also standing by them especially in times of hardship, turbulence and happiness must have endeared him greatly to the emir and by extension his people of Hadeija and Jigawa State in general. “We wish him Allah’s protection, guidance and long reigns in his responsibility as the new DanMasani of Hadeija. *Allah ya ja zamanin Dan Masani,*” he concluded.

Bayero University once again blazes the trail in harnessing the power of sports not only to promote greater mutual understanding amongst staff and students, while enhancing mental alertness for better academic interaction, but has built incentives to motivate a harvest of laurels in away competitions, as **Nura Garba** explains

University Peak Performance in Sports: The Story of BUK

Few Nigerian universities give recognition to the athletic performance of their students or even staff. Very few Nigeria universities possess adequate standard sporting facilities and equipment that can be used in producing potential and champion athletes to compete and represent their universities at national events.

Competition among students or staff in universities and higher institutions of learning is a good strategy for entrenching participation in external sporting events. It has a way of producing close camaraderie among staff and students. Between spending so much time together, sharing a passion for the sport and riding the emotional roller coaster in winning and losing, a deeper friendship is firmly established.

Mercus Vericus Flaccus, a Roman teacher famous in the late 1st Century BC, is credited with introducing the principle of competition among his students as a pedagogical aid. He awarded attractive books as prizes. The Italian scholar, Battista Guarino (1434-1513) writes in his account of proper educational techniques, *De ordine docent et studendi*, that teachers should refrain from physically punishing pupils, and that students are stimulated best by competition, which can be intensified by pairing them off.

In Bayero University, staff and student sports competitions are carried out regularly, to encourage participation and improve healthy sporting competitions. Unlike many institutions, Bayero university regularly organizes competitions either inter or intra faculty, inter department or halls of residence among others. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, who has passion for sports motivates the university athletes by handsomely rewarding those who excel either within the university or outside.

According to Jeroh (2005) serious motivation strategies are either absent or not properly utilized

by university coaches and sports administrators. The lack of functional sports policy, according to Mshelia (2002) also affects the development of sports in universities and thus affects the performance of the students.

Usually, the Sports Directorate draws a timetable for competition either for staff or students, a development that impresses many institutions and personalities.

According to the Deputy Director, Games, Dr. M.Y Waziri, the directorate has planned some sporting activities for staff and students. He said there should be competitions in Basket ball, football, basketball, volleyball and racket games. There is also 5-aside open champions, which the university also gives attention to. In 2012, Bayero University won the 5 aside NUGA and Olaniyi Johnson scored 10 goals to emerge the champion's highest goal scorer in Lagos.

The Inter-Faculty games in BUK seem to be the second to none as representatives of faculties form part of the preparations committees and are given ample time to screen and finally select athletes that will represent their respective faculties. This culture of openness and transparency has further upgraded the spirit of competition in the university.

Part of the Sports Directorate's plan is to create a more competitive atmosphere in Bayero University, so that students will engage competitively there by developing mental strength, thus improve their academic performance.

The Directorate has earmarked some friendly matches between the students team and some universities, like Kwara State University, Malette, which already had a memorandum of understanding with BUK; federal University, Dutse, Federal University Dutsinma, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and if possible some

universities in Ghana and Tanta University, Egypt. The Directorate has also plans for staff to play Northwest University, Kano, Federal University Dutse, A.B.U Zaria, Federal University Dutsinma and UNIJOS in friendlies, so that the athletes will be highly groomed when it comes to proper competition.

Bayero University staff now have a wealth of experience in terms of Nigerian Universities Staff Games, and at the moment can compete with any university in football ball and racket games. Recently, the University staff unions; ASUU, SSANU, NAAT and NASU competed in football, basket ball badminton and table tennis. Satisfied with the competition, the Vice Chancellor gave N500,000 to each union to purchase more sports kits and prepare for further competition. This gesture is highly commended because it will go a long way in boosting the morale of staff to engage in sporting activities.

This motivation has further challenged the Sports Directorate to start designing on how to revitalize the Kano State Higher Institutions Games (KASHIGA) abandoned many years ago. Bayero University is expected to host the next edition possibly before the end of this year or early next year.

In some Nigerian universities, the lack of good sporting policies affect the performance of athletes. Sports are being grossly under-funded, lacking adequate facilities and equipment, lacking adequate and competent staff, improper training programmes for athletes and lack of incentives to athletes and coaches. Sports according to them is regarded as an area for the never-do-well in our tertiary institutions.

Quoting from Williams Committee Report of 1983 on the attitude of universities to sports, Egborge (1986) said as follows: “On the whole it

can be said with a great measure of truth that at the moment, the universities of our land have not evolved any policies, and have not been able to evolve any policies to meet the problems.”

The story is different in Bayero University, because the VC's intervention and investment on student athletes is a step in the right direction. In the past, the student athletes usually suffered serious academic damage while attending to sporting activities. But the Professor Rasheed-led management came with a policy of assigning faculty representatives to liaise with individual department to sort all these issues out and to make sure that the athletes are not in any way affected.

Also the Vice Chancellor has introduced a motivational package of N100,000 to gold medalist, N70,000 to silver and N 50, 000 for bronze winners. It started last year with Ruth Ebere and her colleague who won medals at the NUGA games held in University of Ile-Ife. She was given N270,000 for winning two gold medals and one silver.

The matter here is that since the

culture of competiion is thriving in the university, the best way is for the university management to further give more motivation to student and staff athletes.

The plans to resuscitate KASHIGA and introduce open championships, five aside and racket games should be encouraged. The Sports Director, Malam Tijjani Salisu Sa'id, the Deputy Director Games, Dr. M.Y Waziri, the Deputy Director, Technical Malam Usman and the staff in the Directorate should be encouraged to actualize plans of healthy competitions.

Indeed, in addition to academic breakthroughs, Bayero University can top Nigerian tertiary institutions in sports.

Nura Garba writes from the Directorate of Public Affairs, Bayero University, Kano.



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Rasheed shaking hands with SSANU players in company of Deputy Director, Sports, Dr. M.Y Waziri



Opening Remarks

By the Chairman of Congregation and
Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano

PROFESSOR ABUBAKAR ADAMU RASHEED, mni, MFR



It is my great pleasure to welcome all members of Bayero University Congregation to the 5th Congregation Parley convened for the purpose of interaction with candidates that have been searched and/or applied to be considered for the position of the

vice chancellor of our great institution. This interaction and eventual ranking of the candidates have become part and parcel of our very unique tradition at BUK. This parley will be fifth in the series. Some of us have taken part in all the parleys, some have attended at least two parleys, and over a thousand members, who were recruited into the service of the university during the last four years, will be attending congregation parley for the first time. While we are the model, indeed the only model in Nigeria that conducts congregation parley to interact with, and express our preference for, the candidates of our choice, we take pride to say that our practice is in consonance with the practices in some of the best universities in world, including Oxford and Cambridge universities. This culture needs to be sustained and improved upon in BUK.

2. Let me however, for the sake of, especially our new members, refresh our memory on two important things: one, the process of appointing a substantive Vice Chancellor for Bayero University as provided by the enabling laws, and two, the very important and historical relationship between Congregation Parley and the process of Governing Council in relation to appointment of VC.

3. The appointment of Vice-Chancellors in all Nigerian Federal universities is governed by the provisions of Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree No. 11 of 1993 as amended at various times by the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Decree No. 25 of 1996, and the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Act 2003. By the provisions of the laws, a number of processes (starting with advertisement for the position) are involved before a new Vice Chancellor is ultimately appointed.

4. By the combined provisions of the three laws, the procedure/process of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor in Federal university is stipulated as follows:

(a) Advertisement: The Governing Council shall commence the process of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor by advertising the vacancy in a reputable journal or newspaper. Adequate time shall be given to interested candidates to apply. (Adequate time is generally understood to be at least six weeks).

(b) Search Team: A Search Team (chaired by a member of Council who is not a member of Senate and consisting of two representatives each from Senate and Congregation) shall be constituted to identify and nominate candidates

who may not apply on their own volition. The Search Team shall submit the list of the candidates it nominates to the Selection Board.

(c) Selection Board: A Selection Board (chaired by the Chairman of Council and with two representatives each from Council and Senate) shall also be constituted.

(d) Assessment by Selection Board: At the close of the application and searching process, the Selection Board shall assess all the candidates that applied as well as those searched. The Board shall recommend three candidates to Council for its consideration.

(e) Appointment by Council: Upon receipt of the report of the Selection Board, the Governing Council shall appoint one of the three candidates recommended to it by the Selection Board as the new Vice-Chancellor

5. Items (a), (b) and (c) have been carried out already. What remain are items (d) and (e). In fact the Selection Board has also shortlisted and invited the candidates that it will interview and assess in the next couple of days.

6. One will be wondering where is the Congregation Parley in the guidelines stipulated by the laws? This question has been asked severally and we have a cogent and concrete answer that have stood the test of time. As part of the assessment criterion of the Selection Board, points are traditionally allocated for Community Acceptability which Bayero University believes that the Congregation is the best representation of the Bayero University community that should be used as the barometer to gauge that acceptability. Moreover, the Law establishing the University states that the Congregation can express its views on any matter affecting the University. The Congregational Parley holding today is therefore meant to make an input into the assessment process of the Selection Board by expressing the preference of the Congregation.

7. This brings me to the second item that I wish to refresh our memory about. The last three vice chancellors and my humble self have all passed through the Congregation Parley as well as the Council's Selection Board before we were eventually appointed. The very first parley was conducted in 1995. The Selection Board only noted the resolution of the parley and declined to allocate any point (marks) arising from the results of the congregation ranking. The next parley was in 1999 and the community was able to persuade

the Council to allocate 5 points out of 100 points based on the candidates' performance at the parley. In 2005 another congregation parley was conducted. The resolution of the parley was submitted to the Selection Board and the Board graciously accepted the request of the Congregation and increased the points from 5 to 10 out of 100. And in 2010, the Selection Board accepted to raise the weight of the result of the congregation parley from 10 to 20 points. Today, in keeping with our very strong democratic ethos, we are conducting the fifth parley. We are going to interact with the 9 candidates that have been shortlisted for interview. Let us listen to them attentively. Let us ask them important questions. Let us gauge their competence and their records. And let us scrutinize their visions and their plans for the university.

8. While welcoming all members to this important exercise, let us always remember that there will still remain a stronger Bayero University after the parley. So let us conduct ourselves in an orderly and civilized manner. Let us be tolerant of difference. Let us respect the entitlement of each of us to hold and express their opinions and views in accordance with the rules and standing order of the Congregation.

9. Finally, while praying fervently for Bayero University to continue to grow and excel in its core mandates of teaching, research and community service, I wish to call on the congregation to consider passing some resolutions that would firm-up this participatory role of the community in contributing to the process for appointing a substantive vice chancellor. Such resolutions may include: praying to the Selection Board to maintain the tradition by giving a weight of at least 20 points out of 100 to the result of the congregation parley; and by calling on staff unions in the university to make it apart of their demands during negotiations with government to review the laws for the appointment of VC to the extent of explicit inclusion of the role of Congregation Parley in the process.

10. I want to thank the Standing Committee of the Congregation for their tireless effort in preparing for this Parley.

11. Thank you all and I wish you very fruitful deliberations and interactions.

*Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR
Vice-Chancellor, July 21, 2015.*



BUK TODAY

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Role of the University Congregation in Selection of the Vice Chancellor

With the transmission of the power to appoint Vice Chancellors from the President to the Governing Councils in Federal Universities, the next evolutionary and democratic step of involving the University Community in the process has emerged in Bayero University, as **Mustafa Ibrahim** reveals

Chairman of the Electoral Committee, (first right) Dr Ado M Bello conducting the election, as the congregation members look on



The ascension of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, a former University don and an ABU Chemistry lecturer, to the Nigerian Presidency was a turning point that brought about a sea of change in the process of selecting the Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Federal Universities. It is hard to generalise on all Nigerian Universities but the laws setting up private and state Universities usually stipulate how their Vice Chancellors and other functionaries are appointed, with the National Universities Commission (NUC) as regulator ensuring that nobody deviates from global standards and practices.

According to a reliable but anecdotal account of the new President's experience, after playing host to a string of retired and serving civilian and military top brass that he respected, each of whom came to plead for the candidacy of one or the other candidate at that time vying for the Vice Chancellorship of one of the Nigerian Universities, the bewildered President Umaru Yar'adua called a hurried meeting of some top aides. "Is this what Presidents go through for the appointment of Vice Chancellors? Do I have to go through this for

the dozens of public universities? Can we simplify the process?"

The staff told him that indeed the process could be and had been simplified, codified and passed into law by the National Assembly. The only snag was that the then Imperial President Obasanjo in his "wisdom" did not sign it into law. After due diligence and study of the draft law, President Yar'adua signed it into law, thus amending the extant law and transferring the power of the President, who is designated in law as the Visitor, to appoint Vice Chancellors to the University Governing Councils.

Whereas in the past, Governing Councils selected and forwarded three possible candidates to the Visitor, to appoint one at his pleasure as Vice Chancellor, the amendment empowered the Councils to select and appoint one from as many candidates as go through the process, and merely notify the Visitor and the relevant educational authorities in the country, such as the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Federal Ministry of Education (FMOE).

Other than the change in the role of the Visitor, the process of selecting a Vice Chancellor in all federal Universities is in accordance with the law setting them up as modified by Decree 11 of 1993. In summary, the Governing Council kick-starts the process by advertising the vacancy of the Vice Chancellorship in reputable journals or newspapers. Next, Council is required to set up a Search Team to identify and nominate candidates who are deemed suitable but who have not applied for the post, in addition to those that voluntarily offered to serve. At the end of the application and selection processes, Council then sets up a Selection Board to assess all candidates and recommend three to Council, for the appointment of one of them.

Decree 11 of 1993 in Section 3 (2) and (3) gives the composition of the Selection Board and Search Teams. That the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council shall

president for a term of four years. External members equally appointed with the chairman are the four members representing a variety of interests and a member representing the Ministry of Education. Internal members of Council are the Vice Chancellor, his Deputy Vice Chancellors, the Registrar who is the Secretary, four elected members of Senate and two members representing the Congregation. The Senate, of course, is made up of all HODs, Deans and Professors and elected representatives of the Congregation, in addition to other principal officers (such as VC, DVC, etc) specified in law; while the Congregation is the largest assembly in the University, being composed of all staff who possess a degree, “from a reputable university”.

So far it is clear that at least two members of the five-member Selection Board are Congregation members (since all Senate members are Congregation

members) and the number may be more if representatives of the Congregation sitting on Council are also made members. While all four members of the Search Team are members of Congregation, bar the Chairman if he is an external member of Council; but if he is an internal member, then all five are Congregation members. Thus it can be seen that, even at this level of input, the staff of the University who hold a university degree not only search for suitable candidates



Some members of the Congregation listening to address of the Contestants

serve as Chairman of the Selection Board, with two other members who are not members of the Senate and two members of Senate who shall be professors. A separate Council Member who is not a member of Senate shall serve as Chairman of the Search Team, with two other members of Senate who are not Council members, one of whom shall be a Professor; in addition to two members of Congregation who are not members of Council, one of whom shall be a professor.

For one to fully appreciate the role played by the Congregation members in the selection of a Vice Chancellor in federal universities, one needs to remember the composition of the statutory bodies stipulated by the law, as it involves the selection. Generally, University Councils are chaired by the Pro-Chancellor, usually appointed by the incumbent

but also actively participate in the Selection Board which determines the various criteria and the weights accorded them in scoring the shortlisted candidates, during the interview and selection process.

The practice of selecting Vice Chancellors in some Universities has been hijacked by powerful political and special interests, who through their dominance of the key functionaries of Council simply anoint whosoever they deem fit, not minding competence or his/her acceptance to the host University. Such candidates could be from within or outside the University. Bayero University is, however, different and unique in Nigeria. The process of involving members of staff has gone beyond the statutory bodies to encompass the entire Congregation in a fundamental way.

The role of the Congregation as a body can be said

to have evolved from 1995 to date, with the democratic participation deepening at each cycle of selecting a vice chancellor. This represents a deeper appreciation of the significance and benefit of involving the congregation as a platform for those aspiring to become Vice Chancellors to address the Congregation in a Parley session and explain their vision and plans for the University, and for the members to show their preference and rank such candidates through a transparent and democratic balloting process.

As one of the 2015 contestants noted, the Parley as a forum for interaction between the members of the University Community and those aspiring to lead ensures “broad participation by the Congregation in the appointment of the Vice Chancellor”. Amongst the criteria scored by the Selection Board in BUK is Community Acceptability. In the past this score was given based on an unscientific and arbitrary hunch.

What better democratic and transparent process of gauging this than by a free but secret ballot, through a platform where a good and representative sample of the Community to be governed can call their prospective leaders and serving leaders to account? The vote in the Congregation meeting where the most preferred candidate emerges creates a harmonious working atmosphere, so that other contenders and their supporters join hands with the winner to promote the institution, having lost fair and square. Most importantly, by making a positive contribution to the job of the Selection Board, the Community in turn embraces and accepts whoever emerges as the new Vice Chancellor as appointed by the Council in good faith. It is a win-win situation.

As a trailblazer in democratic enthronement and in keeping with the legacy of Malam Aminu Kano, in 1995 Bayero University Congregation members hosted a Parley for all contestants for the post of vice chancellorship and Dr. Bello B Danbatta emerged tops. This was merely noted but was not scored by the Selection Board. Again in 1999, Dr Musa Abdullahi came tops at the Parley, and the Selection Board accorded a score of 5%. At the next cycle of selection in 2005, Prof. Attahiru Jega was the post-Parley vote winner, and was given a score of 10% by the Selection

Board in its criteria. In the recent past, in 2010, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed came out tops, and earned 20% score at the Selection Board, amongst other criteria. It would be noted that in all the above cases, the candidate with highest Community Acceptance score via the votes cast in the Congregation meeting usually scores highest too at the Selection Board to emerge the Vice Chancellor. Now on 21st July, 2015, a “much decorated” and longest serving Deputy Vice Chancellor in the person of Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello emerged a clear favourite, campaigning on a platform of continuity. By the simple law of averages, he is likely to score high on other criteria too and could emerge the new Vice Chancellor at the end of the process, in sha Allah (God Willing).

The rising influence and profile of the Congregation meeting in the selection of the BUK Vice Chancellor, revolutionary by Nigeria's opaque standards, is a mere



Members of the Congregation

footnote in some academic climes. In Oxford, for instance, the Congregation has been known to remove the Vice Chancellor and replace him with another. In Cambridge the Vice Chancellor's webpage had this to say: “The Vice-Chancellor is nominated by the University Council (the principal executive and policy-making body) from among an international field, and elected by the Regent House - the University's governing body and electoral constituency, numbering more than 5,000 academics and senior administrators.” This Regent House sounds very much like our Congregation Meeting.

There is no doubt that both private and state owned universities will be strengthened by the adoption of a participatory approach in the selection of their VCs, as has become the tradition in Bayero University, Kano.

Mustafa Ibrahim is a Principal Assistant Registrar in the Public Affairs Directorate, Vice Chancellor's Office.

Bayero's innovative democratization of the process of selecting its leader sets it not just above the pack but makes it a model as well says **Lamara Garba** in his analysis

Bayero University As A Model: Democritising VC's Selection Process

The procedure for selecting Vice Chancellors in all Nigerian Federal Universities is uniform as enshrined in the provisions of the laws governing the appointment as reviewed by Section 3 (2) and (3) of Decree No. 11 of 1993. Part of what is applicable as contained in that Decree, stipulates that: the Governing Council of a University shall constitute a selection Board comprising of the Pro Chancellor who will serve as chairman of the board, with two members who are not members of the Senate and two members of the Senate who shall be professors while a Search team, which is responsible for searching out potential candidates from within and outside, is to be headed by a separate member of the Council who is not a member of the Senate, to be assisted by two other members of the Senate who are not Council members one of whom shall be a professor and two members of the congregation who are not members of Council, one of whom shall be a professor respectively.

The other criteria and condition as applicable in Bayero stipulates that a Vice Chancellorship candidate MUST have a PhD; MUST be a professor of not less than five years, and MUST not exceed 65 years of age at the time he will assume office.

However, Bayero University Kano, in its desire to give the University community a sense of belonging, pioneered the democratization of the process through the inclusion of congregational parley to be among the process, which it code-named 'community acceptability'.

Although when in 1995 some academics from the University, made a proposal to the management through the Congregation,



A member of the Congregation cheerfully displays his ballot paper, before casting it

demanding the inclusion of a parley with Vice Chancellorship candidates to be part of the processes for the selection of a new Vice Chancellor, many people expressed reservation as to the workability of the new innovation.

Prior to its introduction, the proponents of this policy argued that the University community have not been carried along in the process of appointing a Vice Chancellor, thus making successive management of the University govern with disdain and in the most despotic manner. They further advanced that Vice Chancellors were not answerable to the university community, neither were they accountable for their misdeeds; instead they served the interest of their external masters who they believed, had influenced their emergence.

Therefore, in a bid to provide a responsible and accountable leadership at the ivory tower, they pushed for the adoption of a policy where the University staff would have an input in the selection process; by so doing they further explained that there would be no imposition of leaders from certain quarters as had been the norm over the years. Indeed, it took several efforts and intrigues before the management could finally

agreed to consider the proposal. It was a tug of war between the progressive academics on the one hand and the conservatives on the other side, but eventually, the protagonist of the 'new innovation' triumphed, and subsequently, congregational parley was internally incorporated to be part of the process of the selection of new Vice Chancellor.

Interestingly, the introduction of the congregational parley some 20 years ago, with the one held last month as the fifth in the series, has been very successful as it has been conducted most transparently, fairly and in full conformity with democratic procedures.

First, it was Professor Bello Bako Danbatta in 1995, then the late Professor Musa Abdullahi in 2000, Professor Attahiru Muhammad Jega in 2005 followed by Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed in 2010 whose tenure is expiring this August.

The Congregation, in the university setting, is a gathering of all employees of that particular institution who have a degree, whether a bachelors or a higher degree obtained from any reputable University. Undoubtedly, this forum is one of the statutory bodies recognised by the Nigerian University laws and statutes. It is a convention where management renders account of its stewardship periodically to the staff. Equally, decisions and policies that could help in moving the University forward are discussed and moulded thoroughly and resolutions arrived at. To put it more aptly, congregation could simply be termed as an avenue for mutual discourse between the management on the one hand and the staff on the other; it is more or less a stock taking meeting.

Therefore in line with the tradition of the University, any time there is a vacancy for the office of the Vice Chancellor, as part of the process, a congregational parley would be hosted between the Vice Chancellorship candidates and the members of the University community comprising both the academics and the professional staff, during which an election that will indicate the community's preferred candidate would be conducted and contestants would be ranked according to the number of votes they were able to score during the congregational parley. The outcome clearly indicates the candidates' level of acceptability by the community.

It should, however, be noted that congregational parley is neither part of the required criteria nor among the statutory process of selecting a Vice Chancellor. However, since its introduction in Bayero University the congregational parley has been exciting and

generated special interest among the university community each time. Therefore, the one conducted on Tuesday, July 21st, 2015, was not an exception; indeed, it turned out to be more exciting than all the previous ones held. The event which was held on the day most workers resumed of work after the Sallah break had recorded a massive turnout of congregation members, almost the highest figure ever with over 1200 in attendance.

Eight candidates addressed the congregation and were ranked after an election according to their acceptability by the members as follows: Professor Muhammad Yahuza Bello who was ranked as 1st choice, followed by Professor Muhammad Sani Sule as 2nd best; Professor Muhammad Dahiru Suleiman came 3rd; Professor Kamilu Sani Fagge was 4th; Professor Muhammad Abdullahi ranked 5th; while the duo of Professors Abdurrahman Adejo Audu and Lawal Danladi Yalwa came 6th having tied in number of votes. The only outsider, Professor Yahya Oyewole Imam from University of Ilorin was 8th and an American-based academic, Professor Duke Urhobo Ophori, who was absent at the parley, was the least in the ranking, with a zero vote.

As it stands now, congregation parley in Bayero University has turned out to be a blessing to the University in particular and the academia in general. The parley has been the most public and interesting aspect of the process of the selection of a new Vice Chancellor.

Perhaps Bayero University's culture of democratisation of the selection process of the appointment of new Vice Chancellor through the adoption of congregational parley, has become a source of pride among Nigerian Universities thereby earning the University a special respect and commendation. The approach is described as innovative, which should be emulated by all Universities.

The parley process which has come to stay has indeed become a strong force to reckon with in addition to making university administrators accountable and responsible in their management of human and capital resources. It equally instils humanism, discipline and culture of respect in the minds of every potential Vice Chancellor and/or anybody who nurses the ambition to head the University. As a result, BUK is always selecting the best among its academics to lead it.

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