



The Chairman of the 13th Governing Council, Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR, OCORT (right) presenting a letter of appointment to the new VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN

Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN: First Year Scorecard

By Sheriff Ahmed & Lamara Garba

INTRODUCTION

All too soon, it seems, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN, is a year in office today. How time flies, as the saying goes. The Governing Council of the University had accepted the report of the Selection Board and approved the appointment of Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN as the 11th Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano on Saturday, 8th August, 2020. Prof. Sagir A. Abbas assumed duty on Tuesday, 18th August, 2020. That was the same day his forerunner, Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello, left office after an eventful 5-year tenure.

It would be recalled that the new Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas, assumed duty under the lockdown characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the nationwide industrial action by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). The lockdown lasted for nearly 10 months. In other words, universities were shut down until January 2021 when academic activities resumed.

The new Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas, was overwhelmed by the fact that decision making process was not easy, especially when he did not have deputy vice-chancellors to assist him. The Senate and the

Governing Council could not meet to approve the appointment of the three deputy vice-chancellors. Reprieve, however, came the Vice Chancellor's way when Council, on Saturday, 27th February, 2021 approved the recommendation of the Senate for the appointment of three new Deputy Vice Chancellors (DVCs): Academics, Management Services and Research & Development.

With the coming on board of the three DVCs, all was set for the VC to start the ball rolling. Surely, the ball has since started rolling and producing dividends and meeting targets set by the Vice Chancellor.

With a complete set of Principal Officers, including the appointment of Acting Registrar, the Prof. Abbas-led administration has been working progressively and meticulously on critical areas such as the welfare of staff and students, academic activities, infrastructure and security challenges. This special report on the Vice Chancellor's one-year in office will provide a brief on the areas just stated and the efforts being made to stabilize the system and ensure peace and stability in all aspects of governing the University, including the land encroachment issue, which is equally being tackled.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Bayero University, like other tertiary institutions across the federation, had been under lockdown most part of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a period which paralyzed all academic activities even when the COVID-19 lockdown was eased off by the Federal Government and students returned to the campuses. The management of the University started working tirelessly to fix the lost time in academic activities. In the twinkling of an eye, the Principal Officers' weekly meeting, the University Management Committee (UMC) meeting, the Senate and

conducted hitch-free. Undergraduate students have since vacated the campuses and are currently on break. Postgraduate students, however, are about rounding off their lectures and examinations will follow almost immediately. In fact, Postgraduate Examinations are expected to begin on Monday, 23rd August, 2021.

iii) 2020/2021 & 2021/2022 Sessions

The Vice Chancellor, again, made presentation to Senate, and the Senate gave approval that the 2020/2021 and the



New VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas (left) taking over from Prof. M. Y. Bello (right)

other statutory committees were set in motion without any procrastination.

i) Completion of First Semester 2019/2020 Session

The Vice Chancellor made presentation to Senate for approval to retain the name of the session 2019/2020. The Senate gave its approval. The Vice Chancellor, therefore, ensured that the academic timetable for both first and second semesters 2019/2020 was redesigned and pursued to the letter. It would be recalled that the first semester for the 2019/2020 session had started before the lockdown. It was, therefore, fair for the semester to be completed before the commencement of the second semester. The first semester, it is interesting to note, was completed in record time and examinations were held without any hitches. That was the first achievement.

ii) Second Semester 2019/2020 Session

The second semester lectures, similarly, were begun and concluded in record time. Examinations were also

2021/2022 sessions be merged. This means that the University would admit two sets of students for one session (i.e. 2020/2021 set and 2021/2022 set). 60% of 2020/2021 set and 60% of 2021/2022 set would be admitted simultaneously. The University had successfully conducted the Post-UTME screening exercise and admitted students for the 2020/2021 session. With the 2021 UTME just concluded, the University is leaving no stone unturned to design modalities for the 2021/2022 admission exercise, which will be preceded by the Post-UTME screening.

iv) Introduction of New Academic Programmes

The immediate past administration had initiated the process of introducing new academic programmes. It is worthy of mention that the new administration continued with the initiative and completed the process and resource verification, during the period under review, of the following eight (8) new academic programmes:

VC, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas monitoring a lecture session at the Old Campus



- a) B.Eng. Automotive Engineering
- b) BSc Taxation
- c) BSc Forensic Science
- d) Doctor of Veterinary Medical Science (DVM)
- e) BA (Ed) Primary Education
- f) BA (Ed) Early Childhood Education
- g) BSc Environmental Health Science
- h) BSc Meteorology

All the programmes were approved at the 384th Meeting of the Senate. The Management has concluded arrangement for admission of students in all the new programmes in 2021/2022 session.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

i) Appointment of Registrar

The process of appointing a substantive Registrar for the University has begun in earnest. The process began with the approval by the 13th Governing Council for the commencement of the process. Advertisement for the position of Registrar had already been placed in three national dailies, following the expiration of the tenure of the former Registrar on 28th February, 2021. Submission of applications by interested candidates for the post of Registrar of this great University expired on Wednesday, 11th August, 2021. The 14th Governing Council of the University will be saddled with the responsibility of appointing a substantive Registrar for the University.

The 13th Governing Council of the University, chaired by Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR, OCORT, completed its tenure in May 2021. The 14th Governing Council of this University, in a few weeks' time, will assume duty to constitute a Selection Board for the task of shortlisting qualified candidates for the post of Registrar. The Board will interact with the candidates and recommend three of them to Council. Council will then appoint one of the candidates as substantive Registrar for the University. The 14th Council of the University will be chaired by Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, a former Senator and former Minister

of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

ii) Manual for In-House Training of Non-Teaching Staff

In order to develop the skills and the quality of non-teaching staff of the University, the Vice Chancellor constituted a seven-member committee led by the former Registrar of the University, Dr Sani Ibrahim Amin –and two former Registrars, Malam M. D. Nasir and Malam Mohammed Sani Amin– to produce a manual for In-house training of non-teaching staff in the University. The committee was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor on Tuesday, 20th October, 2020, when he had spent barely two months in office.

The committee has since submitted its report to the Vice Chancellor and has produced the manual for the in-house training. The manual, if implemented to the letter, will go a long way towards improving the quality of non-teaching staff of the University. The training, in no distant future, would be used as part of the requirements for the promotion of non-teaching staff of the University. The Bursary and the Audit Departments would soon produce a similar document for the training of their staff. The University Management is finalizing arrangement to equip the training unit of the University before implementing the document at the beginning of next session.

iii) Policy on Sexual Harassment

A Draft Sexual Harassment Policy had been presented and approved by the University Management Committee (UMC). The Sexual Harassment Policy would be presented at the next meeting of Council for consideration and approval.

iv) Policy on Communication

A policy on communication is in the pipeline. The Director, Public Affairs is currently working on the draft document, which will be reviewed by the Management as soon as it is ready.



Members of the Manual for In-house Training Committee in a group photograph with VC, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas (6th right) and other Principal officers

v) *Security Policy:*

The Vice Chancellor also constituted a five member Security Policy Committee. The Committee's terms of reference included the following:

- To produce a security policy document for the University;
- To come up with a procedure of addressing the security challenges in the University;
- To identify the major security challenges facing the University;
- To propose modern techniques of addressing security issues in the University;
- To make recommendations on any other relevant security challenges;
- To produce the policy document four weeks from the date of inauguration.

It is gratifying to report that the Committee has submitted the policy document. The Management has started implementing the policy.

vi) *2020 Promotions Exercise*

The 2020 promotion exercise, which was delayed as a result of the lockdown, was concluded in April 2021. That was the first promotion exercise supervised by the Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas-led management. The exercise was concluded successfully. All members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, senior and junior, who had the necessary requirements for the promotion, were promoted accordingly. "The exercise was carried out to the best of our abilities. We were fair to all," the Vice Chancellor had said. The Central Appointments & Promotions Committee (A&PC) had recommended as follows:

- 35 candidates for assessment to the rank of Professor
- 73 candidates for assessment to the rank of Associate Professor
- Promotion of 525 members of staff of the University.

The 13th Governing Council had, at its 14th Regular Meeting held on Thursday, 15th April, 2021, approved all the recommendations of the A&PC.

So far, 62% of those seeking promotion to the rank of Professor had been cleared. Similarly, 43% of those seeking promotion to the rank of Associate Professor had been cleared.

The Prof. Sagir-led administration summoned an emergency meeting of the Central A&PC to consider the promotion of some Registry and Bursary staff to the position of Deputy Registrar and Deputy Bursar, respectively. Four (4) Registry staff were promoted to the rank of Deputy Registrar and two (2) Bursary staff to the rank of Deputy Bursar. This category of promotion has been lingering for many years. Similarly, over 80 non-teaching staff were upgraded during the 2020 promotion exercise.

vii) *Staff Claims*

The financial situation of the University has been a great concern for the new administration. This has, to a large extent, affected the mission and vision of the Vice Chancellor. Despite this inevitable impediment, the Vice Chancellor has been working tooth and nail to ensure that the University campuses are peaceful and stable and all academic activities are going on smoothly. The Vice Chancellor, it should be noted, met most staff claims unsettled. In the last one year, however, the Vice Chancellor has fully paid DTLC (Direct Teaching and Laboratory Cost), Visiting Lecturers, External Examiners, 90% of External Assessment Fees, Departmental Shares, SIWES, SWEP, Teaching Practice and Field Trip, Staff Shares, as well as Union Registration and Societies, Motor vehicles Maintenance and Fuelling Allowances and First and Second Quarters claims for Deans and Directors. That was not all. Purchase of official vehicles for Deputy Vice Chancellors, payment of the balance of solar panels, production of examination materials for first and second semesters and the successful full accreditation of six academic programmes were achieved during the period under review.

vii) Utilities

There are two main challenges in this aspect: electricity and water supply. These two very important aspects of the health of the University are being addressed by management.

a. Electricity: Bayero University main campuses have three sources of electricity: KEDCO, Solar and Generators. Solar source of power in the New Campus (3.5MW) was installed in 2019. The facility was tested in 2020 during the lockdown. During the testing period, the solar was tested in only the residential areas, because there were no academic activities and no students on Campus. The solar was tested for one year by the company that installed it, and it was found to be working perfectly. There was light in the residential areas for many months. This condition continued up to January 2021 when all universities reopened for academic activities. When students resumed and academic activities commenced in January 2021, the 3.5 MW solar could not provide enough electricity to residential, academic and students' hostels.



“ The Vice Chancellor promises to lead the University by adherence to the rules and regulations, probity, accountability, transparency and punctuality ”

The load in the three areas was more than 3.5MW. During peak period of the hot season in March through May, the academic areas alone, in the afternoon, consumed 2.9MW. For this reason, the Management, under the leadership of Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, decided to dedicate solar to only the academic areas. The Management has sourced for 500KVA generator that will be dedicated to students' hostels, while three generators will be dedicated to residential areas. Faculties of Law and Communication and Dangote Business School, currently connected to residential areas, will now be migrated to academic area. It is hoped that the solar will provide light to the academic area for 24 hours. The solar in the New Campus, it should be noted, has solar panels, generators and 2,160 batteries. The Management also plans to separate students' power line from the academic area so that residential, academic and students' hostels will be independent of each other. With regard to electricity in the Old Campus, the Management in the last one year has come to realize that the powerhouse in the Old Campus is not working properly.

First Year Scorecard



VC, Prof. S. A. Abbas with members of Visitation Panel to the University



VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas (right) with the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero (centre) and Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Papapereye Diete-Spiff, Sereiyai II, The Amanyanabo of Twon Brass

Whenever there is light from KEDCO, it goes to the transformer directly. This explains the incessant power failure at the Old Campus. In the last one year two transformers got burnt as a result of this problem. The Management has concluded arrangement to restore the powerhouse to full functionality status; it has also concluded arrangement with KEDCO to migrate the Old Campus to Gwarzo Road alternative line. This arrangement will provide more stable power supply, as the line has little load. Again, the Management has concluded arrangement with KEDCO to buy all the necessary equipment to facilitate the provision of the alternative line. It is hoped that very soon electricity will be restored in the Old Campus.

In addition to all these, the Management in the last one year has made relentless effort by reaching out to the Minister of Power for assistance. The good news is that the Management has secured from the Ministry of Power an intervention, which will include 7.5KVA transformer for the New Campus as well as upgrade of the powerhouse in the New Campus. It is hoped that by the end of 2021 the facilities will have been in place. Consultants from the Ministry of Power have since visited the University for assessment.

- b. Water Supply Problem:** The University, for many years, has continued to rely on boreholes, especially in the New Campus, for the supply of water to students' hostels and staff quarters. Water from Kano State Water Board has been little and far between.

As a matter of fact, electricity and water supply have remained the most daunting problems for the University. The truth of the matter is that there is no underground water in the New Campus. Only few boreholes yield water. The New Campus depends heavily on tankers for supply of water. Management is not giving up; it is working tirelessly to find a lasting solution to the twin glitches. Arrangement has been concluded to visit Minister of Water Resources in Abuja on the issue for intervention.

INFRASTRUCTURE/PROJECTS

A. Projects Begun by Prof. M. Y. Bello to be Completed by Prof. Sagir A. Abbas

During the period under review, the Prof. Sagir-led administration has taken steps to complete projects started by the last administration. The projects to be completed include:

1. The construction and furnishing of Nigeria Centre for Reading Research
2. Refurbishing of Science laboratories
3. Completing of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Phases I & II)
4. Completing International Conference Centre
5. Completing Abubakar Rasheed Senate Building
6. Secured intervention from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to install lift in the Abubakar Rasheed Senate Building
7. Negotiated with the NNPC to complete Department of Civil Engineering. The University will bear the cost of furnishing the facility which will be over N70m.

This administration has secured funding from Federal Government for completing 1, 2 and 7. The remaining will be completed by the Management.

B. Projects Begun by Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas

1. Construction of the Office of the Provost, College of Natural and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Old Campus
2. Construction of Dean's Office, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
3. Construction and furnishing of Centre for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Education
4. Construction of the Office block in the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences
5. Completion of Phase 1 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Veterinary Anatomy)
6. Construction and equipping of Microteaching Laboratory in the Faculty of Education

All the six projects have been captured in the 2021 budget and work has already started in all of them.

Other Modest Achievements Recorded by Prof. Sagir A. Abbas in Fulfilment of his Promises include:

1. Secured three (3) more buses for transportation on the campuses to ease students/staff movement;
2. Ensure that students receive quality education and graduate on time through quality assurance
3. The use of IT applications by staff and students in academic interaction (virtual teaching). This was tested with GSP Courses in the First Semester. The Management has completed arrangement to teach all GSP courses virtually.
4. Accessed IT intervention fund by TETFund; the funds had not been accessed by the University for five years; the fund is being used to upgrade the BUK website and train staff.
5. Accessed Entrepreneurship Grant from TETFund; the fund has not been accessed for five years. The fund will be used to revitalize entrepreneurship programme in the University;



VC, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas (sitting 3rd right) in a group photograph with leaders of neighbouring communities



VC, Prof. S. A. Abbas and other Principal Officers of the University in a group photograph with members of the Board of Directors and Management of NCC

6. Made special arrangement with KEDCO to increase hours of power supply to the University;
7. Consolidating the use of committee system in running the University;
8. Follow due process in running the University;
9. Employment of more security personnel and investing heavily in electronic surveillance.

SECURITY/LAND ENCROACHMENT

It is an undeniable fact that the security situation in the country today is fragile. Educational institutions have become the target of bandits and kidnappers. Cases of abduction of lecturers, students and other staff of educational institutions are uncountable. It is against this background that this administration, since assuming duty in August last year, has prioritized security as one of its cardinal goals. Concerted effort is being made to ensure security of lives and property. It is true that our campuses are enjoying amity and safety. That is not to say that we have not witnessed some local security challenges. Below are some identified security issues and how they were, and are, being handled.

1. Lack of Adequate Manpower to Provide Effective Security Coverage

- Cluster guard system was introduced where security guards are assigned a cluster of locations to guard;
- Strategic and sustainable patrol of key and vulnerable areas;
- Outsourcing of some locations to private security providers;
- Employed more security personnel to only patrol the Old and the New Campuses at night.

The University Management has also engaged the services of armed security personnel to provide security in all the main campuses.

2. Encroachment on University Land, Especially at Rimin Zakara

The University Management has taken the issue of land in the New Campus as priority. In the last one year the Management has taken measures to engage the people of Rimin Zakara in a dialogue. The Management has engaged all relevant government agencies in the matter. It has also made formal submission to Kano State Government for the settlement of the matter once and for all. The Management has also directed the security outfit as follows:

- Constant surveillance and reporting of incidents of encroachment to the University Management;
- Liaise with sister security agencies in addressing identified cases;
- Managing the perception of some of the encroachers by appealing to their sense of conscience and reason.

3. Low and Porous Parameter Fencing Occasioning Criminal Activities

- Constant fence patrol;
- Liaise with police in conducting raids and arrests of criminal elements at neighbouring communities.

4. Herdsmen intrusion

- Involvement of local vigilantes in fence patrol;
- Liaise with traditional authorities who prevail on the recalcitrant herdsmen.

Overall, the Management of the University is taking the issue of security very seriously in view of the prevailing insecurity situation of the country today. Adequate security consideration is given to the hostels of the University in order to impede any unanticipated circumstances. It will interest the University community to know that management has sought the services of the military and the police as well as other security outfit to patrol the

University Campuses at night. The Management is making contacts with relevant government agencies to get the University fenced. This, no doubt, will go a long way towards providing adequate security to both staff and students of the University.

The Prof. Sagir led Management also deemed it appropriate to appoint a retired DSS as Director, Security Division of the University. It would be recalled that when academic activities resumed, the Vice Chancellor convened a **Special Congregation on Security**. Management had also met with stakeholders such as the leadership of the Security Division and security companies.

Conclusion

The Vice Chancellor recorded these modest achievements because of the support, cooperation and diligence of Management and staff of the University. This is because the Vice Chancellor believes in transparency, inclusiveness, prudence, foresight and accountability in



A group photograph of Emir of Kano and BUK Management

order to turn the University around. Of course, the 13th Governing Council of the University was instrumental in this development. Prof. (Ambassador) Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, the immediate past Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council and Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Bahari, must be commended for steering the affairs of the 13th Council successfully. Gratitude goes to him and other members of the 13th Council. The Vice Chancellor is grateful to the entire University community for their cooperation and understanding. Most importantly, he is thankful to Almighty Allah for the good health and guidance in steering the affair of the University in the last one year. The Vice Chancellor promises to lead the University by adherence to the rules and regulations, probity, accountability, transparency and punctuality. For the Vice Chancellor to deliver in the remaining four years, he needs the support and understanding of the University community.

