



NELFUND Managing Director/Chief Executive, Mr. Akintunde Sawyer (centre) with VC, BUK Prof. Haruna Musa, fsi and other Principal Officers in a group photograph during the later's visit to the University

## 17,000 BUK Students Benefit as University, NELFUND Strengthen Loan Scheme Delivery

By Fausat A. Opayomi & Hauwa Mustapha Ahmad

**B**ayero University, Kano (BUK) and the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) have strengthened their collaboration to enhance the efficiency of the Federal Government's student loan scheme, with about 17,000 students of the University already benefiting from the initiative.

As part of measures to improve coordination and ensure smooth disbursement of the loan to beneficiaries, the University has inaugurated a Standing Committee to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the programme within the institution.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Haruna Musa, fsi, disclosed this while receiving the Managing Director of the Nigeria Education Loan Fund, Mr. Akintunde Sawyer, and his delegation during a courtesy visit to the University on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Professor Musa explained that the establishment of the committee was aimed at strengthening institutional oversight and facilitating prompt resolution of issues that may arise in the course of administering the loan scheme to students.

Speaking during the visit, the Managing Director of NELFUND, Mr. Akintunde Sawyer, said the purpose of the

engagement was to reinforce the existing partnership between the Fund and Bayero University, Kano, which has emerged as one of the leading beneficiaries of the programme.

He disclosed that approximately 17,000 students of the University had already accessed the loan facility, describing the figure as an indication of the institution's commitment to expanding access to higher education through the initiative.

Sawyer commended the management of the University for encouraging students to take advantage of the programme, noting that the loan scheme was designed to support students financially and enable them to pursue their education without undue economic hardship.

According to him, the initiative represents a strategic intervention by the Federal Government to broaden educational opportunities for young Nigerians while equipping them with the knowledge and skills required to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Addressing concerns about the monthly upkeep stipends attached to the loan, the NELFUND Managing Director acknowledged that certain operational challenges had been encountered, particularly when a large number of students apply simultaneously.

He explained that the resulting pressure on the system sometimes leads to delays in processing payments but assured that the Fund was working actively to improve the technological infrastructure and administrative processes to make the system more seamless and responsive.

Sawyer added that the loan programme was conceived not only as a financial intervention but also as a social investment designed to move young Nigerians off the streets and into institutions of learning.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Haruna Musa, fsi, commended the Managing Director for the progress recorded since the introduction of the student loan scheme, describing the implementation of the initiative as a significant milestone in Nigeria's effort to widen access to tertiary education.

Professor Musa noted that the programme has already begun to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many students and their families. He observed that the scheme is greatly assisting parents in supplementing the cost of financing their children's education, particularly at a time when economic realities have placed increasing pressure on household resources.

The Vice Chancellor also expressed appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, for supporting policies aimed at expanding educational opportunities for Nigerian youths through innovative financing mechanisms.

While acknowledging the positive impact of the

programme, Professor Musa highlighted some of the operational challenges encountered by students in accessing certain components of the loan. He explained, include delays in receiving upkeep allowances, difficulties arising from misplaced email addresses or password credentials used during registration, and complications faced by students who transfer from one institution to another, which sometimes disrupt the continuity of their payments.

Professor Musa, expressed optimism that with closer collaboration between NELFUND and the University, such issues would be addressed to ensure smoother service delivery.

Also speaking at the meeting, the Dean of Student Affairs, Professor Mukhtar Ridwan Bunza, commended the Federal Government for introducing the student loan initiative, describing it as a forward-looking intervention capable of transforming access to higher education in Nigeria.

He noted that Bayero University provides a conducive environment for the effective implementation of the programme and called for the introduction of additional mechanisms that would further enhance its operational efficiency.

The engagement between NELFUND and the University forms part of ongoing efforts by both institutions to strengthen collaboration and ensure that the benefits of the student loan scheme reach more Nigerian students in an efficient and sustainable manner.

## BUK to Partner Chinese Firm on Hybrid Rice, Mechanisation, Others to Boost Food Security

By Hamza Usman

Bayero University, Kano (BUK) is advancing plans to enter into a strategic partnership with Green Way Agrotech Limited, a Chinese-backed agricultural firm, to introduce hybrid rice varieties and promote large-scale mechanised farming as part of efforts to enhance food production and address persistent food shortages in Nigeria.

The proposed collaboration came to the fore during a courtesy visit by a delegation from Green Way Agrotech Limited to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Haruna Musa, on Friday, April 3, 2026, at his office. The engagement marked a significant step toward forging a mutually beneficial relationship that blends academic expertise with private-sector innovation in agriculture.

Leading the delegation, the Managing Director of the company, Mr. Peter Fonk, explained that the visit was aimed at formally introducing the firm to the university leadership while outlining its operational vision and long-term commitment to Nigeria's agricultural transformation. He noted that the company is focused on supporting the country's drive toward food self-sufficiency within the next three to five years, while positioning Nigeria as a major exporter of agricultural produce over the next decade.

Mr. Fonk emphasized that the partnership would go beyond the introduction of hybrid rice to include the cultivation of maize, groundnut, and other staple crops critical to Nigeria's food system. According to him, a key



Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of Greenway Agrotech Ltd Mr Peter Fonk (right); VC Professor Haruna Musa, fsi (centre) and Dr. Lin of Greenway Agrotech Ltd (extreme left)

component of the collaboration will be the deployment of modern agricultural machinery and mechanised systems designed to improve efficiency, reduce manual labour, and increase yields across farming communities.

“We are bringing in advanced mechanisation models that will support land preparation, planting, irrigation, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. With the right mix of technology and knowledge transfer, Nigeria can significantly close its food production gap,” he said.

He further revealed that Green Way Agrotech Limited plans to support the university in training students of the Faculty of Agriculture on improved crop varieties, climate-smart farming techniques, and the application of modern agricultural technologies. The initiative, he added, would include structured internship programmes, field demonstrations, and scholarship opportunities aimed at attracting and nurturing a new generation of agripreneurs.

Beyond mechanisation, the company outlined plans to provide critical agricultural inputs such as high-yield seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, irrigation systems, and storage facilities, all of which are essential to strengthening the agricultural value chain. The collaboration is also expected to incorporate extension services that will bridge the gap between research findings and practical application among local farmers.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Haruna Musa, commended the initiative, describing it as both timely and strategic in addressing Nigeria's pressing food security challenges. He noted that the integration of mechanisation and improved inputs aligns with the university's commitment to advancing research-driven solutions that have direct societal impact.

Professor Musa highlighted the role of BUK's Centre for Dryland Agriculture and the Faculty of Agriculture as critical platforms for driving innovation in arid and semi-arid farming systems. He expressed optimism that the partnership would not only enhance students' practical exposure but also contribute to value addition,

agribusiness development, and rural economic growth.

He further reaffirmed the university's readiness to collaborate with Green Way Agrotech Limited and other relevant stakeholders, assuring that BUK would provide the necessary institutional support to ensure the success and sustainability of the initiative.

Importantly, both parties agreed to work toward developing a comprehensive proposal that will form the basis of a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU, once finalized and signed, is expected to pave the way for broader collaboration, including academic exchanges and partnerships with other Chinese institutions, thereby strengthening research, training, and technology transfer.

Present during the meeting on the side of the university management were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Professor Ahmad Muhammad Tsauni; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), Professor Aliyu Mu'azu; the Registrar, Comrade Haruna Aliyu; the Director of the Centre for Dryland Agriculture, Professor Sanusi Gaya Muhammed; Professor Mohammed Maina; and the Director of Public Affairs, Malam Lamara Garba, among others.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of the Centre for Dryland Agriculture, where both parties held further technical discussions on key areas of collaboration, particularly in mechanised farming systems, irrigation technologies, and sustainable agricultural practices suited to Nigeria's dryland environment.

With this development, Bayero University, Kano continues to position itself as a hub for agricultural innovation, leveraging strategic partnerships to drive food security, empower youth, and contribute meaningfully to national development.



MD/CEO of Green Way Agrotech Ltd Mr Peter Fong and Dr Lin in a group photograph with VC Professor Haruna Musa, fsi and other Management of BUK

# Global Health Experts Sound Alarm over Persistent Maternal, Newborn Deaths at Nairobi Summit

## *...Commit to Evidence-Driven Solutions*

By Bala G. Abdullahi

Global health experts, researchers and policymakers have expressed concern over the persistent cases of maternal and newborn mortality across many parts of the world, calling for stronger evidence-based interventions to reverse the troubling trend.

The concern was raised during the 2026 International Maternal and Newborn Health Conference, tagged “Kenya 2026,” which brought together stakeholders from across the globe at the Edge Convention Centre in Nairobi on Monday, March 23, 2026. The conference served as a platform for experts to exchange ideas and explore practical solutions aimed at improving the survival and wellbeing of mothers and newborns.

Among the key participants was the African Centre of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), whose delegation was led by its Director, Professor Hadiza Galadanci. The team reaffirmed its commitment to advancing evidence-driven research, building strategic partnerships and contributing to global efforts aimed at ensuring that mothers and newborns not only survive childbirth but also live healthy lives thereafter.

During the conference proceedings, Professor Galadanci participated in several high-level engagements, including a strategic meeting with the Every-Pregnancy Project Team, a faith-based initiative that leverages zakat and community-driven philanthropy to mobilize sustainable resources for maternal and newborn health programmes.

The engagement highlighted the growing potential of value-driven financing models that draw on faith-based and community contributions to complement conventional funding mechanisms, particularly in resource-constrained settings where maternal and newborn mortality rates remain high.

Professor Galadanci also moderated a high-level session of the Lancet Commission on Maternal and Newborn Health, which brought together a diverse group of experts to examine persistent and emerging challenges affecting maternal and newborn care across different regions of the world.

Discussions during the session identified several structural barriers that continue to undermine progress in maternal and newborn health. These include shortages in skilled health personnel, weak healthcare infrastructure and persistent inequities in access to quality maternal care. Participants emphasized the need to bridge the gap between data-driven research and the real-life experiences of women and families, stressing those effective solutions must combine scientific evidence with community-centered approaches.

The session further called for stronger collaboration among governments, health institutions, development partners and civil society organisations in order to address systemic challenges affecting maternal and newborn health outcomes.

Among the key priorities identified were the strengthening of integrated health systems, increased investment in the health workforce and the establishment of stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure that policies and interventions translate into measurable improvements in maternal and newborn survival.

In a parallel session, Dr. Aminu Wakili represented the team in a technical meeting with collaborators from the University of Birmingham under the E-Master Project, where progress updates and implementation strategies were reviewed.

Additionally, members of the ACEPHAP team are scheduled to participate in a Regional Think Tank Meeting, designed to provide a strategic platform for coordinating and strengthening advocacy efforts for maternal, newborn and child health across Africa. The meeting will also facilitate discussions on the regional scale-up of the E-



The Director, ACEPHAP, Prof. Hadiza Galadanci (3<sup>rd</sup> left) joined by other Members of the Team at the Nairobi Conference

MOTIVE bundle for PPH, alongside other priority interventions, reinforcing a coordinated pathway toward improved health outcomes across the region.

The team from the E-MOTIVE Rollout Project actively participated in a range of high-level engagements. The delegation comprised; Prof. Taiwo Amole (Co-Principal Investigator), Dr. Aminu Wakili (Programme Manager), Hilal Mukhtar Shuaib (Service Delivery Coordinator), Nurudeen Umar Karaye (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager) and Abdulraham Ibrahim (Data Manager). Three other research team members of the Centre joined the highly educative and informative engagements.

The conference concluded with renewed commitment from participating organisations and experts to intensify research, advocacy and collaborative initiatives aimed at reducing maternal and newborn mortality and improving health outcomes for women and children around the world.

# BUK, Nigerian Navy Logistics College Explore Deeper Academic Partnership

By Lamara Garba



Commandant of the Nigerian Navy Logistics College Dawakin Tofa, Commodore A. A. Madawaki along with other officers of the College in a group photograph with Management of BUK

The Nigerian Navy Logistics College (NNLC), Dawakin Tofa, has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening its existing relationship with Bayero University, Kano (BUK) as part of efforts to deepen institutional collaboration.

The Commandant of the College, Commodore A. A. Madawaki, made this known when he led a delegation from the College on a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor of the University in his office.

Commodore Madawaki explained that the visit was aimed at formally introducing the new leadership of the College to the management of Bayero University, Kano, while also exploring avenues for expanding cooperation between the two institutions.

He noted that the partnership between NNLC and the University has remained cordial and mutually beneficial, adding that the College is keen on further strengthening the relationship in areas that would support training, research and professional development.

The Commandant disclosed that he assumed office as the 4th Commandant of the Nigerian Navy Logistics College on November 27, 2025, pledging to build on the foundation laid by his predecessors in advancing the College's mandate.

He further explained that the Nigerian Navy Logistics College, Dawakin Tofa, was established on January 21, 2022 to provide specialized training in logistics and related fields for naval personnel.

According to him, the College currently runs seven professional training programmes designed to enhance the operational and administrative capacity of naval officers and ratings.

The programmes include the Logistics Officers Basic Course, Logistics Officers Management Course, Basic Qualifying Course, Basic Project Qualifying Course, Leading Seamen Qualifying Course, Long Logistics Management Course, and Petty Officers Qualifying Course.

Commodore Madawaki expressed optimism that closer collaboration with Bayero University, Kano, would further enrich the training programmes of the College and create opportunities for knowledge exchange between the two institutions.

He stated that the institution was tasked with the responsibility of training personnel on Logistics and Supply Chain Management and at the verge of commencing Advanced Diploma and Postgraduate

Diploma in Logistics and Supply Chain Management in September, 2026.

Commodore Madawaki extended his heartfelt appreciation to the Management of Bayero University for its continued mentorship and support towards the development of the College.

Responding, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Haruna Musa, *fsi*, thanked the Management of the College for the visit, assuring his guest the University's commitment to fostering partnership and collaboration between the two institutions.

Speaking on the University's breakthrough in academics, Professor Musa briefed the delegation on present status of the University in world University ranking, noting that BUK emerged 3<sup>rd</sup> best University in Nigeria and it is among the top 1001-1200 in the world and best in terms of International Outlook, according to the 2026 Times Higher

Education ranking of universities.

Prof. Musa disclosed that the University had staff strength of over 5,000 students with 19 faculties and 18 research centres, among which two (2) of the centres were Centres of Excellence funded by the World Bank (Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) and Africa Centre of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP). He further explained that the University was at the verge of celebrating its 50 years anniversary in 2027.

He commended the Naval College for the great milestone achieved in its professional courses on logistics management. He assured that BUK would support the institution to the fullest in introducing more courses.

In order to make the engagement more formal, the VC advised the delegation to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would guide and identify the areas of partnership and collaboration. He wished the team safe journey.

## Registrar Charges ICT Trainees to Deploy Digital Skills for Better Service Delivery

By Nura Garba

The Registrar of Bayero University, Kano (BUK), Malam Haruna Aliyu, has urged staff to be applying acquired skills from a training attended toward improving productivity and strengthening service delivery.

He made the call during the graduation ceremony of the first batch of the 2026 Registry ICT training programme, held on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Speaking at the event, the Registrar emphasized that the true value of capacity-building initiatives lies not merely in participation but in the practical application of the knowledge and skills acquired. He observed that the increasing reliance on digital systems in modern administration has made ICT competence an essential requirement for efficient institutional management.

Malam Aliyu therefore encouraged the participants to demonstrate commitment by translating the knowledge gained during the training into measurable improvements in their respective units and departments.

He also commended the coordinators of the programme, Abubakar Kafinsoli and Ali Umar Yakasai, for their dedication and effective delivery of the training, noting that their efforts played a key role in the successful implementation of the initiative.

The Registrar reaffirmed the Registry's commitment to continuous staff development, stressing that regular training and retraining programmes remain critical to equipping personnel with skills that meet evolving global ICT standards.

Earlier, the programme coordinator, Abubakar Kafinsoli, explained that the training lasted eight weeks, beginning in mid-February, and focused on essential components of the Microsoft Office suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and internet applications.

He added that the programme attracted participation from both junior and senior staff, reflecting the Registry's



Registrar, Malam Haruna Aliyu in a group photograph with the facilitators and the participants of the Registry ICT Development Training

inclusive approach to capacity building and professional development.

Kafinsoli further disclosed that preparations are underway for the next batch of the training, which is expected to commence in the coming weeks as part of the University's sustained efforts to deepen digital literacy and enhance administrative efficiency within the institution.

# BUK VC Mourns as Level 100 Mass Communication Student Dies

By Lamara Garba

Bayero University, Kano (BUK) has been thrown into mourning following the death of a Level 100 student of the Department of Mass Communication, Hauwa'u Salisu Lawal, who passed away after a brief illness.

The young student, who was born in 2008, died in Kaduna after battling the illness. She hailed from Fagge Local Government Area of Kano State.

News of her death has sent shockwaves across the university community, particularly among her colleagues in the Mass Communication Department, who described her as a calm, respectful, and promising student with a bright future ahead.

In a heartfelt condolence message, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Haruna Musa, fsi, expressed deep sorrow over the unfortunate loss, describing it as painful and heartbreaking not only to the university but to the academic community at large.

Professor Musa said the university received the news with profound sadness, noting that the loss of a young and aspiring student at such an early stage of her academic journey is a tragedy that is difficult to comprehend.

He extended his deepest sympathies to the family of the deceased, urging them to find solace in the life she lived and the impact she made within the short time she spent at the university.

The Vice-Chancellor also prayed for the peaceful repose of her soul and for Almighty Allah to grant her eternal rest in *Aljannatul Firdaus*, while giving her family, friends, and colleagues the strength to bear the irreparable loss.

A delegation from the Department of Mass

Communication, led by Abubakar Tijjani Ibrahim on behalf of the Head of Department, Dr. Gambo Shehu Nababa, visited the family of the deceased to commiserate with them over the tragic loss.

In a brief remark, the Head of Department described Hauwa'u as a dedicated student who showed commitment to her studies and interacted well with both staff and fellow students.

Fellow students have continued to pay tribute to the deceased, recalling her humility, kindness, and willingness to support others academically and socially.



Late Hauwa'u Salisu Lawal

## Appreciation from Prof. Attahiru Jega on the Death of his Wife

On behalf of my family and myself, I, Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega, wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who stood by us during the painful loss of my beloved wife, Hajiya Hadiza Jega, who passed away on Saturday, 4th April 2026.

I am particularly humbled by the personal attendance of His Excellency, the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima; the National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu; and the Executive Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Inuwa Yahaya, who honoured us by attending the funeral prayer. I am equally grateful to the many distinguished dignitaries, ministers, and members of the National Assembly whose presence and solidarity brought us comfort in our moment of grief.

My sincere appreciation also goes to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his kind message of condolence and support, which I deeply cherish.

I remain profoundly thankful to the Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Professor Haruna Musa, fsi, Principal Officers, and the entire BUK community for their overwhelming show of compassion. Whether you attended the funeral, paid condolence visits, called, sent messages, or offered prayers, your support has been a source of strength and solace to me and my family.

To friends, colleagues, associates, and well-wishers from across the country and beyond, I say thank you. Your kindness and prayers have reminded us that we are not alone in this difficult time.

As we continue to mourn this great loss, we find comfort in your support and in our shared faith. I pray that Almighty Allah rewards you all abundantly, grants my beloved wife eternal rest in *Aljannatul Firdaus*, and blesses each and every one of you with good health and long life.



The Vice Chancellor  
Bayero University, Kano

Professor Haruna Musa, FAS, FRCGS, FRCN, FFRHS

**INVITES THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO THE**

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium**

to Mark the  
**43<sup>rd</sup> MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY OF**

*Malam Aminu Kano*

**TOPIC: THE ECOWAS AND REGIONAL PEACE IN WEST AFRICA:  
THE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION**

*Lt. Gen. Tukur Yusuf Buratai (Retd)* FRS, FRCGS, FRCN, FFRHS  
Former Chief of Army Staff and Former Ambassador to the Republic of Benin

**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**

*His Excellency  
Malam Dikko Radda, FRSC, FRCGS*  
Governor, Katsina State

**CHIEF GUEST**

*His Excellency  
Alh. Abba Kabir Yusuf*  
Governor, Kano State

**GUEST SPEAKER**

*Professor Nazifi Abdullahi Darna*  
Former Commissioner, Internal Services  
ECOWAS Commission, Abuja

**DISCUSSANTS**

*Alh. Muhammed Babandede, MFR*  
Former Comptroller-General, Nigeria Immigration Service

*Professor Samaila Suleiman*  
Department of History, Bayero University, Kano

**DATE:** Friday, April 17, 2026

**TIME:** 9:00am Prompt

**VENUE:** Sa'adu Zungur Auditorium, Mambayya House, Gwammaja, Kano

Organised By

**Mambayya House**

Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Studies  
Bayero University, Kano

## Department of Geography: *PhD Seminar*

**1<sup>st</sup> PRESENTER:** Atiku Mohammed Yola

**TOPIC:** Insurgency, Food Security and Livelihoods: A Review

**CHAIRMAN:** Prof. Bello Gambo

**2<sup>nd</sup> PRESENTER:** Nasiru Mohammed

**TOPIC:** Community Based Water Resources Management and Resilient Strategies in Rural Areas: A Framework for Sustainable Water Management: A Review

**CHAIRMAN:** Prof. Adnan AbdulHamid

**3<sup>rd</sup> PRESENTER:** Abdulkadir Musa

**TOPIC:** Oil and Gas Exploration, and Soil Pollution: A Review

**CHAIRMAN:** Assoc. Prof. Mansur Abdul Mohammed

**DATE:** Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**TIME:** 10.00 am prompt

**VENUE:** NRM Class, Geography Department

**NOTE:** Attendance to Seminar is Compulsory to all MSc 1, MSc 11, and PhD 1 and PhD 11.

# WORDSCAPE

With Yusuf M. Adamu, PhD, MNAL, FANA, FANG

### RUNAWAY POEM

I am looking for a poem  
A runaway poem for that matter  
It is a poem I gave birth to  
In the dreamshere last night  
As the sun rises, it disappears  
I checked my memory store, not there  
Where has it gone, I wonder  
Help me find it.

### GOD BLESS NIGERIA

Nigeria is a great nation  
By any standard you measure

It has a mammoth population  
Rich and vast agricultural land  
Unbound mineral resources  
Beautiful landscapes and scener  
Great culture and ethnic groups  
Beautiful people in all places  
Kind and generous citizens  
Very determined and resilient youth  
*The few bad eggs in the nation's barn*  
Should not make us hate our country  
God Bless Nigeria



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