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# Campus News

Federal University of Technology, Minna

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## CANCER: PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVAL – Amina Bello

**T**he wife of the Executive Governor of Niger State and founder Raise Foundation Nigeria, Dr. Amina Abubakar Bello, has called on Nigerians to visit their doctors with the view to diagnosing any form of cancer in its early stage so as to increase the chances of survival.



Founder, RAISE Foundation Nigeria, Dr. Amina Abubakar Bello delivering her paper yesterday

She made the call while delivering a public lecture titled: **"Early Detection and Timely Management of Cancer: Panacea to Graceful Ageing"** at the Caverton Lecture Hall, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Main Campus.

The guest lecturer noted that cancers have become a leading cause of mortality worldwide and one of the leading causes of death from non-communicable diseases.

She pointed out that cancer is a generic term used to describe a group of diseases that are characterized by rapid creation of abnormal cells that grow beyond their usual boundaries: to affect other parts of the body and spread to other organs.

Dr. Bello identified the disease as the third leading cause of death in developing countries, especially among ageing population.

The Governor's wife stated that while the specific causes of cancer remain unknown, changes as a result of the disease may be influenced by a person's genetic make up and some external agents called carcinogens, which are grouped into 3 main categories: Physical carcinogens such as ultraviolet or ionizing radiation; Chemical

Carcinogen like asbestos, tobacco smoke arsenic etc. and Biological Carcinogens such as infections from certain viruses, bacteria or parasites. Tobacco smoking, heavy alcohol intake and obesity, she identified, are the agents with highest propensity to trigger cancer.

As preventive measures, the doctor recommended the consumption of fruits, vegetables and regular exercise.

"Two things are important here for cancer: to know the symptoms that could be cancer and then to be able to go to the hospital on time to detect them there. The second thing is to screen. Screening means you're looking for the cancer before it starts giving symptoms or before it occurs. I'll advise that we make ourselves aware of what cancer is, to get the information and actively understand so that if we have symptoms that are suggestive, we understand it could be cancer and we immediately take ourselves to the hospital," she maintained.

Stating the significance of the lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, *FNSBMB, FAS*, noted the importance of the lecture as it touches on the fabric of our lives.

"Everybody knows somebody who has been affected by cancer; that is what makes it interesting and the lecture involves both the town and gown."

Notable dignitaries in her entourage were the wives of the Deputy Governor of Niger State, Hajiya Aisha Ahmed Ketso; wife of the Honourable Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Hajiya Saratu Marafa as well as Honourable Binta Mamman.

# MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PANACEA FOR CHANGE – Expert

**M**odern Science and Technology must be embraced for the wind of change to be realized. This was articulated in a seminar series of the School of Life Sciences presented by the Director General, National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) Prof. Lucy Ogbadu who was represented by an Assistant Director of the agency and Country Coordinator, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) Dr. (Mrs.) Rose Gidado.

Speaking on the topic: ***Understanding the Role of GMO's in Enhancing Food Security in Nigeria*** held on Friday, October 7, 2016 at Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Bosso Campus, Federal University of Technology, Minna, the NABDA boss said the attainment of food security is one of the basic objectives for any nation and Nigeria is yet to achieve food security because our agriculture is still at subsistence level with low productivity, poor return on investment and low crop yield.

According to her, the ultimate goal of food security is to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and that farmers in Africa need to boost Agricultural productivity including supportive policies, access to better seeds, fertilizers, markets, finance, extension support, effective national research systems and better rural infrastructure.

Dr. (Mrs.) Gidado said with technological interventions such as DNA technology/genetic modification which gave rise to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), Nigeria has the potential to catch up with Asia and other developed countries.

She explained that GMO's are plants, animals or organisms DNA of which have been modified using genetic engineering methods to resist pests and agents causing harm to them with a view to improve the growth of these plants to assist farmers' efficiency.

Dr. (Mrs.) Gidado stressed that application of GMO Technology has the potential to increase yield and productivity by reducing insect and pest manifestation on crops, reduce stress and improve income for farmers, generate income for developing countries and address problems not solved by conventional research like weed, insects, drought, salinity and rise in temperature.

She noted that no GMO crop has been commercialized in Nigeria but Biotech field trials are ongoing in institutes for Agricultural Research Samaru, Zaria on transgenic Bt. cowpea and Africa biofortified sorghum, newest rice NCRI, Badeggi, Niger State and bio cassava plus, NRCRI, Umudike, Abia State.

Concerning the safety of GMO crops and foods, she explained that World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) say GMO food currently in the international market have passed risk

assessments and are not likely to present risks for human health.

The Director General, National Biosafety Management Agency, Dr. Rufus Egbeba in his presentation said science and technology are the drivers of positive change in the modern world.

Dr. Egbeba charged academics to help government diversify the economy towards economic transformation of the country.

"You have the responsibility to produce products that will transform the lives of our farmers, enhance our economic prosperity and make Nigeria a self-sustaining nation and to produce enough for domestic consumption and export," he reiterated.

According to him, Biosafety is the measure that the practice of modern Biotechnology and the use of genetically modified organism doesn't have any adverse risk to human health. He noted that there is now a law - National Biosafety Management Act 2015 - through which NABDA came into being which is a legal instrument to enable anybody to do genetic engineering and produce GMO'S.

He urged the VC to expedite action to have co-accredited Genetic Engineering Department in the University.

In his address, the Chairman of the Seminar and Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Musbau Adewumi Akanji, **FNSBMB, FAS**, represented by the Dean, School of Environmental Technology, Prof. Asimiyu Junaid said research plays a very important role in any developed nation and noted that the topic is very apt because Nigeria is in recession and the nation is looking up to researchers, especially with respect to food security.

"For us to be food secured, there is a need for synergy between the ministries, agencies and relevant stakeholders and I hope this synergy is sustained," Prof. Akanji said.

The VC commended the Dean of SLS, Prof. Falusi and staff for their input in research and technology, adding that the School of Life Sciences has been doing well and has a lot of promise.

# APPROVED ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR THE 2016/2017 SESSION

**FIRST SEMESTER: MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2016 TO SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017, 20 WEEKS (ONLINE REGISTRATION 3 WEEKS; LECTURES 14 WEEKS AND EXAMS 3 WEEKS)**

Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016 – Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2016	- Online registration for new students (2 weeks)
Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016 – Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	- Arrival and Documentation of Fresh students (1 week)
Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016 – Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October, 2016	- Online Registration of Returning Students (1 week)
Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2016 – Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2016	- Arrival and Documentation of Returning students/ Lectures begin for all students
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2017	- Lectures continue for all students
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017	- Matriculation Ceremony of new students (2016/2017 session)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2017 – Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 2017	- Convocation Week
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017 – Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017	- e-Test (1 week)
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February, 2017 – Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	- e-Exam for 100 level students and large classes (1 week)
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017	- First Semester Examinations (2 weeks)
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2017 – Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2017	- First Semester Break (2 weeks)
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 – Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	- <b>SIWES</b> (24 weeks) for all Schools with exception of SAAT
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2017	- School Boards to consider First Semester Results
Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2017	- Senate to consider First Semester Results

**SECOND SEMESTER, 2016/2017- MONDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2017 – SATURDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2017, 16 WEEKS (LECTURES 13 WEEKS AND EXAMS 3 WEEKS)**

Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April, 2017	- Lectures commence for all students
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017 – Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 2017	- e-Test (1 week)
Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017 – Saturday, 15 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	- e-Exam for 100 Level Students and Large Classes (1 week)
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017 – Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> July, 2017	- Second Semester Examination (2 weeks)
Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2017 – Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	- Second Semester Long Vacation Break (6 weeks)
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017 – Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	- SWEP/Field Trip (6 weeks)
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> August, 2017	- School Boards to consider Examination Results
Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017	- Senate to consider Second Semester Results
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2017	- New Session 2017/2018 begins

**Every Wednesday of the week, lectures end at 2:00p.m for sporting activities for all students.**

**NOTE:** \*Senate reserves the right to amend this Calendar without prior notice.

## COUNSELLING TIP

In this period of economic recession, apart from thinking in a positive and realistic way, you can change your behaviour or 'act calm'. If you are feeling anxious, let others know: fit leisure and pleasure into your daily routine. Worry and anxiety are silent killers! Do not allow them to overwhelm you.

**Guidance and Counselling Unit,  
Students' Affairs Division.**

## APPOINTMENT

The Vice-Chancellor has approved the appointment of **Dr. Bolanle Wahab**, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Ibadan as a Visiting Senior Lecturer to the Department of and Regional Planning, School of Environmental Technology (SET) for a period of one year with effect from November 1, 2016.

## 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Nigeria Association of Hydrological Sciences cordially invites the University community and the general public to the opening ceremony of its **7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE** slated as follows:

**Theme:** *"Water Resources and Sustainable Development"*

**Time:** 10:00am prompt

**Date:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016

**Venue:** Chemical Engineering Complex, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

**For enquiries:** 08035862472, 08029106209

## WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Weed Science Society of Nigeria (WSSN), Local Organizing Committee (MINNA 2016) cordially invites the University community and the general public to its **44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** slated as follows:

**Theme:** *"Agriculture - An Alternative To Oil-Dependent Nigeria: The Role of WEED Management"*

**Date:** Sunday, 6th - Wednesday, 9th November, 2016

**Venue:** School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (SAAT) Complex, Federal University of Technology, Minna.

**For enquiries:** 08035937593, 08058073352 or [daniyan@futminna.edu.ng](mailto:daniyan@futminna.edu.ng)

## Money Matters

Weekly Financial Digest (Monday, October 3 - Friday, October 7, 2016)

S	RECEIPTS	N
1	Clearance Fees	12,000.00
2	Collection of Certificate	336,250.00
3	Academic Transcript Fees	315,000.00
4	JAMB Admission Letter	15,000.00
5	Farm Land	1,500.00
6	Post UTME Screening Exercise	5,250.00
7	Verification/Confirmation of Certificate	16,000.00
8	JAMB Regularization No.	5,000.00
9	Campus Radio	42,620.00
10	Proficiency in English	8,000.00
11	Replacement of I.D. Card	500.00
12	Turnintin	73,000.00
13	Post UTME Scratch Card	19,600.00
14	CPES Sales of Forms	395,000.00
15	Post Graduates School Fees	50,737,500.00
	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>51,982,220.00</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
	<b>(i) Staff</b>	
	(a) Advances	4,129,048.00
	<b>(ii) Contractors/Suppliers</b>	
	(a) Mrs. O. Oladejo - Supply of Newspaper	8,880.00
	(b) Nigeria Postal Service - Courier Services	251,842.50
	(c) Arewa Media Publication Event Company - Supply Books	190,000.00
	(d) Jalasca Furniture & Cabinet Nig. Ltd., - Supply	100,000.00
	(e) Ashwin Nig. Ltd., - Supply	3,811,500.00
	(f) Mrs. O. Oladejo - Supply of Newspaper	99,500.00
	(g) New Infotech Consultants - Training of Library Staff	2,150,050.00
	(h) New Infotech Consultants - Training of Bursary Staff	2,260,387.00
	(i) Federal Road Safety Corps - Training Executive Officer	450,000.00
	(j) Safara Restaurants	421,650.00
	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>13,872,857.50</b>

## SALE OF CHICKENS

This is to inform the University community and the general public that the University Commercial Farm has Chickens for sale at the Animal Production Teaching and Research Farm, Main Campus, Gidan Kwano at the rate of N1,300:00 for cash and carry, while paying through salary is N1,400:00

Interested members of staff should come with their ID Card.

For details, contact the number below:

07035612185