



## BUK, University of Warsaw to Strengthen Relationship

*...Expand Collaboration on AI, Law, Others*

By Lamara Garba

The Bayero University, Kano (BUK) and the University of Warsaw (UW) in Poland have reached an agreement to broaden the existing academic collaboration by expanding areas of cooperation to include the emerging field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Law and other areas for mutual benefits of the two institutions.

This followed a meeting held on Monday, 15th April 2024 in the Golden Hall of the UW between the officials of the University of Warsaw led by the Rector, Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak and a team from Bayero University led by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas.

The two institutions discussed extensively on their academic cooperation spanning nearly four decades in which both agreed to further enhance the collaboration.

“We had a fruitful discussion in which we reviewed the relationship that was first signed in 1986 and brought out more areas with which we can extend the agreement particularly on Artificial Intelligence, which is the trending area globally and Law,” said the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas.

The meeting with the UW officials was attended by the delegation from Bayero University, Kano (BUK) chaired by Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, Prof. Aliyu Mu'azu and Prof. Yakubu Magaji Azare, while on their part, the Rector led other representatives of the UW's Faculty of Oriental Studies: Prof. Piotr Taracha, the Dean, Prof. Nina Pawlak, and Prof. Izabela Will.

The Vice Chancellor of BUK in his remarks revealed that relationship between the two universities had really assisted in the growth and development of the institutions. He appreciated the support rendered by Professor Nina Pawlak to BUK whom he described as a great scholar with zeal and determination to promote intellectualism and academic excellence.

According to him, it was in appreciation of her contribution that Bayero university organized an international conference about two years ago in which the proceedings of the conference resulted in publishing a book in her honour, which the VC presented to Professor Nina Pawlak.

Professor Abbas while congratulating her for attaining the golden jubilee in academic career in Warsaw University, equally said BUK would be glad to engage Professor Pawlak in a different capacity so as to continue the collaboration in teaching and research.

Professor Abbas expressed deep appreciation to the Management and staff of Warsaw University for the warm reception and hospitality accorded them since their arrival. He prayed that the visit would wax the relationship more stronger.



Delegation from BUK led by VC, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas along with Prof. Aliyu Mu'azu and Prof. Yakubu Magaji Azare in a group photograph with Rector of University of Warsaw, Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak and Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, WU, Prof. Nina Pawlak during a visit to the institution



VC, Prof. Sagir A. Abbas (left) presenting a plaque to Rector of Warsaw University, Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak during his visit to Poland, while Prof. Yakubu Magaji Azare looks on

Turning to Professor Nina who celebrated her 50th anniversary as a scholar, revealed that in those golden years she supervised a number of Postgraduate students in

Hausa studies from BUK which included Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai, Professor Yakubu Magaji Azare, Dr Isa Chamo and Dr Jibrin Adamu.

The Bayero University delegation during its stay in Poland had also participated at the Africa Days events organized by the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the 50th Anniversary of Prof. Nina Pawlak's academic career. The events were organised by the UW's Chair of African Languages and Cultures.

It could be recalled that the University of Warsaw has been cooperating with Bayero University Kano since 1986 with signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on academic cooperation. Subsequent agreements were signed in 2006 and 2015.

The two universities have been working together in such areas as education, exchange of academics or joint publications. The UW offered educational programmes, including doctoral studies to students from the BUK.

Other engagements are the hosting of a joint scientific activities and conferences. UW students have the opportunity to do language and cultural internships in Kano. This year's summer, about nine students from Poland are expected to visit Bayero University for internships.

Highlight of the visit was a presentation of plaque by the VC BUK to Rector Warsaw University.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium of Malam Aminu Kano: Prof. Fawole Says Nigeria Practices "Courtocracy" as Against Democracy

By Sulaiman Salihu

An erudite scholar and a Professor of International Relations, Williams A. Fawole has likened Nigerian Democracy to what he referred to as Courtocracy – 'government by the court and rule by the court.'

Speaking at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium to mark the 41<sup>st</sup> Memorial Anniversary of Malam Aminu Kano with the theme: Democracy or "Courtocracy": The travails of Nigeria's Electoral Process in the Fourth Republic



The Guest Speaker, Prof. Williams A. Fawole

organized by Aminu Kano Center for Democratic Studies, Mambayya House, Professor Fowale admitted that the type of democracy practiced in Nigeria could best be described as a misnomer. The symposium took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 at Sa'adu Zungur Auditorium.

The guest speaker described election in Nigeria as contentious that often ended in disputes and violence. He supported his argument by citing cases of Nigeria's past elections from October 1965, 1979, 1983, 1999 up to 2023. He, however, mentioned the 2015 election contested by former President Goodluck Jonathan and former President Muhammad Buhari as the only exception.

According to him, the 2023 election had statistics of over 1,000 pre-election cases and 324 post-election cases in various courts, adding that the 2019 election on the other hand had 1,689 litigations from pre-elections, primaries up-to the secondary elections.

Prof. Fowale made a comparative analysis between Nigerian democracy and that of the United States of America. He said in the US candidates contesting elective positions often put the country first rather than their personal interests. He gave as examples the elections that brought former President John F. Kennedy and George W. Bush to power.

He also gave as example the recent case of Mr. Peter Obi and Alhaji Atiku Abubakar against President Asiwaju Bola Ahmad Tinubu in the 2023 Presidential election. He said, even after the ruling of the Supreme Court, they made speeches of not accepting the court ruling.

The University don said despite the irregularities in the Nigerian democracy, "we can admit that the 2023 general election was the best under Prof. Mahmud Yakubu due to the application of technological gadgets i.e. Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS)."

Prof. Fowale said it was most unfortunate that it is only in Nigeria that political parties were called upon to sign peace agreements. He said no matter how election is contested loser never accept defeat. "Losers and winners are victory of the court," he remarked.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Management Services, Prof. Mahmoud Umar Sani, said the Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Studies had since 2001 began to organize annual memorial activities in form of symposium to discuss issues of national importance in remembrance of our father and

mentor, the late Malam Aminu Kano.

According to him the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, 2024 marked another year and time of commemorating the 41<sup>st</sup> annual anniversary of the life and time of the great icon, the late Malam Aminu Kano, adding that it had always been the tradition to carefully select guest speakers from among distinguished politicians and scholars with vast experience in government, politics and other related disciplines of human endeavours. He listed some of the guest speakers who made presentations at the forum to include; the Late Dr. Yusuf Bala Usman, Late Alhaji Mudi Spikin, Chief Chukwu Emeka Ezeife, Late Professor Ahmad Usman Jalingo, Late Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Bishop Mathew Hassan Kuka, Dr. Usman Bugaje, Malam Adamu Fika, Comrade Adams Oshomoile, Barr. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Barr. A. B. Mahmoud, SAN, among many others.

The Vice-Chancellor said the choice of the topic under discussion; *Democracy or "Courtocracy": The Travails of Nigeria's Electoral Process in the Fourth Republic* was apt, timely and topical. "Even the choice of the distinguished personalities, with guest speaker, Prof. Williams A. Fowale, a Professor of International Relations and Political Development, formerly of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife and the two discussants; Senator Shehu Sani of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly, Kaduna Central Senatorial District, Kaduna State and Dr. Abubakar Isa Umar, the Dean Faculty of Law, BUK was apt.

He reiterated that topic was of paramount importance considering that court cases regarding elections were numerous and kept increasing from tribunals and many of which ended at the Supreme Court. He added that the success or failure of our Nigerian democracy largely depends on our judicial system. He hoped the topic in discussion would bring an everlasting solution to the

present happening.

Prof. Abbas announced that this year's memorial symposium featured the unveiling of another exciting book presentation as part of the contribution of the eminent scholar, Malam Aminu Kano titled "*NEPU Sawaba, Colonial Resistance and the struggle for democracy in Northern Nigeria.*" He called on all and sundry to obtain a copy of the book for reading. He then thanked all on behalf of the University community for attending the memorable occasion.

The two discussants, Senator Shehu Sani and Dr. Abubakar Isa Umar in their separate remarks viewed democracy in Nigeria as a power of those in power. They observed that from the number of cases that went into court, only few made difference. They argued that Politicians should not be blamed for going to court to get justice in view of politicians' impunity and election infractions in the country.

They believed that politics in Nigeria could only be corrected "when the masses avoid the habit of hunger as the case in Senegal, Kano and Kaduna during Mal. Aminu Kano and Balarabe Musa.

In his vote of thanks, the Director, Mambayya House, Prof. Habu Muhammad, thanked the Chief Host, His Excellency, Governor of Kano, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Chairman of the Occasion, Governor of Jigawa State, H. E, Alhaji Umar A. Namadi, the Special Guest of Honour, H. E, Governor of Zamfara State, Dr. Dauda Lawan Dare, the Father of the Day, Emir of Kano, His Highness, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero and the Host, Vice-Chancellor, BUK, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas and all that participated for

## CDA's Dr. Murtala Badamasi Appointed to National Geospatial Data Infrastructure Committee

By Nura Garba

The Head of Geographical Information System (GIS) of the Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), Dr Murtala Mohammed Badamasi, has been appointed into the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI) Committee by the Federal Government.

The inauguration of the Committee was conducted by the Honourable Minister for Budget and Economic Planning, Sen. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu CON on Friday, March 22, 2024.

Comprising experts spanning diverse fields, the committee's mission is to dismantle silo mentalities and lay the groundwork for a comprehensive geospatial data infrastructure across Nigeria. The Minister underscored the significance of collaboration and resource mobilization in realizing this vision, drawing inspiration from successful models worldwide.

Dr. Badamasi's wealth of expertise and unwavering dedication underscore CDA's steadfast commitment to this national imperative.

Reaffirming the government's dedication to national advancement, the Minister urged all stakeholders to pool their knowledge and resources toward this shared



Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Se. Abubakar Bagudu (right) in a handshake with Dr. Murtala Badamasi (left)

objective. "Through unified effort and collaboration, a prosperous course for future generations," affirmed the Nigeria stands ready to leverage its diverse assets and chart Minister.

## APPOINTMENTS

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, has approved the appointments of the underlisted staff:

S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	APPOINTMENT	EFFECTIVE
1	Dr. Warshu T. Rabi	Islamic Studies and Shariah	Appointed as Deputy Director (Research, Documentation and Publication), Centre for Qur'anic Studies	5 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 to 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
2	Dr. Umar Ibrahim Indabawa	Islamic Studies and Shariah	Appointed as Deputy Director (Training and Programmes), Centre for Qur'anic Studies	5 <sup>th</sup> April, 2024 to 4 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026



(1) Engr. Nafi'u Muhammad Usman of the Maintenance Services Department invites members of the University community to his wedding fatiha with his fiancée, Amina Abdurrahman Kawu, scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, 27th April, 2024

**Time:** 11:30am

**Venue:** Umar Bn Khattab Juma'at Mosque, Along Zaria Road by Dangi Flyover, Kano State.

(2) Barrister Nura Musa Abdullahi (Danmakwayon Sarkin Sharifan Gwale) of SERVICOM invites members of the University community to the wedding fatiha of his daughter, Saddika Nura Musa (Ihlan), scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Sunday, 28th April, 2024

**Time:** 11:00am

**Venue:** No. 189 Dandago Abba Wakili's Mosque, Near Sani Buhari's Juma'at Mosque, Yar Maishinkafi Kano.

(3) Prof. Kabir Bello Dumbulun of the Department of Sociology invites members of the University community to the wedding fatiha of his daughter, Fatima Kabir Bello and her fiancé Aliyu Ahmed Ladan, scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Saturday, 20th April, 2024

**Time:** 11:00am

**Venue:** Bayero University Central Mosque, BUK Old Campus

## APPRECIATION FROM PROF. M. RABI'U SA'AD

Assalamu alaikum, on behalf of our family members, I wish to express our gratitude to members of the University community and others, who condoled us by sparing time to visit our family or through phone call or other means. Special appreciation goes to the Vice Chancellors of BUK, Istiqama, Alqalam, Baba Ahmad,

University Management, ASUU representatives, Chairman Council of Ulma'as, Chief Imam and many others too numerous to mention. Jazakumul Lahu khairan, Rabbanaghfir lana wa li waalidina wa lil mu'minin wal mu'minaat. Prof. Muhammad Rabi'u Sa'ad.

## Submission of Unserviceable Equipment, Waste Papers and other Unserviceable Items

Sequel to the recently concluded disposal exercise held on 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, the Board of Survey has received numerous requests for unserviceable items. Based on the foregoing, I have been directed to request you to furnish the Board of Survey with a comprehensive list of all unserviceable items situated in your respective Faculties, Centres and Departments.

This is to enable the Board of Survey determine the practicability or otherwise of disposing off the items in accordance with extant regulations.

Please, take note that those that have already submitted their list or have no unserviceable items need not respond to this notice.

## DAP Moves to Abubakar Adamu Rasheed Senate Building

This is to inform members of the University has moved from Old Administrative Block to Second Community that the Directorate of Academic Planning Floor A.A. Rasheed Senate Building.

