



# NEWSFLASH

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## AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY EMERGES WINNER AT THE NMGS QUIZ COMPETITION

Department of Geology, Al-Hikmah University came first in the just concluded Nigerian Mining Geoscience Society (NMGS) quiz competition in Monarch Luxury Palace Hotel, Ilorin, which was held from Sunday 26th to Friday 31st March, 2023.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Noah Yusuf, while receiving the students in his office, expressed his happiness over the achievement of the students in the competition despite being the only private university that attended the competition.

The University don added that there would be a seminar to feature the laurels in order to encourage and sensitise other students and set standards for them.

The Registrar, Dr. Kazeem Adebayo Oladimeji appreciated the Vice Chancellor's commitment across all faculties as well as the Dean and HOD for their continuous effort in effective management of the University resources.

Dr. Oladimeji urged the students to be more committed. He added that this achievement is a wakeup call for others that will hard work everything is possible. He prayed for the continuity of excellence of the students as well as their long life and sound health.

Similarly, the Librarian, Mr. Isiaka Atunde Alao also commended the Vice Chancellor for providing necessary equipment and man power for running the University and urged all the University students to continue projecting the image of the University positively where ever they find themselves.

The Acting HOD, Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences, Dr Haruna Kehinde Abdulrasaq, during his address, applauded the students for emerging the winner out of the 28

Universities that participated.

Dr. Haruna revealed that the University had earlier emerged overall best in the 2016 NMGS competition. He, therefore, promised to bring more of such feats to the University.

Dr. Haruna reiterated that the University management has been really supportive by providing amenities that would make both teaching and learning seamless for lecturers and students and that they would continue to be appreciated by positively projecting the image of Al-Hikmah University. He, therefore, charged students to be diligent, committed and focused.

One of the participants, Mr. Abdulrasheed Abubakar Sambo, while expressing his joy, said he could not believe they won the quiz competition that students from top universities in Nigeria participated in. He said though, he studied very hard for the competition as he was sure others would be studying too, but he still could not believe that Al-Hikmah University won.

According to Mr. Sambo, "I would always rate Al-Hikmah University ahead of any university

because of the quality of teachers therein".

Similarly, another participants, Miss Rukaya Al-Mahamud Magaji, also from the Geology department, revealed that the quiz was very tough for her because she had never being in a competition that would make her compete with the likes of Amamdu Bello University, University of Ilorin and others but the just concluded competition had built more confidence in her.

Miss Magaji reiterated her lecturers' dedication and commitment towards ensuring academic excellence among the students.

In her words, "when they announced Al-Hikmah University as the winner, the feeling was on another level. Though, we went there prepared, but eclipsing 27 other universities which were public, was unimaginable."

She urged her fellow students that the sky is just a starting point because whatever you want to do, once you put Allah first, followed with persistence and hard work, then nothing is impossible.



Group picture of Al-Hikmah University Management with Mr. Abdulrasheed Abubakar Sambo and Miss Rukaya Al-Mahamud Magaji (L-R: 3rd & 4th position) winner of Nigerian Mining Geoscience Society (NMGS) quiz competition

## AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES



# NUGA

## Nigerian University Games Association

and very excited when he got the news and he assured the university community about the unit's commitment to always showcase the image of the university locally, nationally and internationally.

He commended the university management for their commitments and support of the sports unit. He, however, urged them to continue to provide necessary support in terms of sponsorship to any inter-university games, provision of sporting materials among others and to recruit more coaches in different sport games even if they are part-time coaches.

Dr. Oluwasola advised students to join any of the sport games on campus and that with passion, and dedication, they can become an icon in such sporting activities as time goes by.

The Acting Director, Al-Hikmah University Sports Unit, Dr. Amuda Oluwasola has revealed that the Nigerian University Games (NUGA) has shortlisted Al-Hikmah University Taekwondo Team to participate in the World University Games Trial coming up on the 8th to 14th of April, 2023 at the University of Benin, Edo-State.

The Acting Director made this known during an interactive session with the information crew of the

university on Friday, 31st March 2023 in his office at the main campus of the university.

According to him, “this was due to our performance in the 1st NUGA competition the institution attended last year at the University of Lagos, where the Taekwondo team won silver medal and Al-Hikmah University would be the only private university to participate in the World University Games Trials in Taekwondo game”.

Dr. Oluwasola said he was elated

## EUROPEAN UNION TEAM VISITS AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY

The European Union Research Aid team paid a courtesy visit to the management of Al-Hikmah University on Tuesday, 28th March, 2023. The four-man team was led by Mr. Christopher Addy-Naego from Netherlands, Other members were Mr. Oliver Nwankwor from Netherlands, Prof Chris Emenyenu and Mr. John Amadi, both from Imo State.

The visit was in line with the directive of the European Union to get the Union acquainted with the three institutions that won the grant of EUR 822,916.97 for the implementation of a project titled, “Promoting digital financial solutions for farmers in remote communities to adapt to climate change”. The institutions were Al-Hikmah University, University of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Imo State university and Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Mr. Addy-Naego expressed his happiness to the University management. He urged the

management to keep up the good work, especially on the quality of education in the institution.

The Vice Chancellor, Al-Hikmah University, Prof. Noah Yusuf in his remarks, stated that the management would do its best for the implementation of the project and

also assured the team that the man power and infrastructures were in place to enhance quality education in the University.

Prof. Yusuf appreciated the team for coming and also prayed for their safe return back to their respective destinations.



Group picture of Al-Hikmah University Management with European Union Research Aid team

## EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO WIN RESEARCH GRANT - PROF. SAKA

**A** Professor of Chemical Engineering Department, Federal University of Technology Minna, Prof. Abdulkareem Ambali Saka said proposal writing for a research grant requires the input of relevant expertise for its actualisation.

Prof. Saka made this statement while presenting a paper titled, “Craftsmanship, Ethics and Professionalism: Best Practices for Grant seekers” at the two-day workshop on grant writing skills and international grant winning fundamentals organised by Centre for Research, Industrial Linkage and International Grants Winning Fundamentals (CRIIC).

The Professor of Chemical Engineering emphasised that getting funding for a research project goes beyond good ideas as one has to explain his ideas to the panel of reviewers in a manner that is convincing enough for them to grant the needed funding. He added that meeting deadline and presenting convincing proposal are critical in gaining favour from the research funding committee.

According to him, “some of the tips for writing convincing proposal are: understanding the differences between a research proposal and a peer review article in which the pitch should hold the attention of the reviewer from the start; ensuring grammatical mistake free proposal; understanding where the funding entity directs his funding resources; ensuring total adherence to the guidelines and paying attention to communication strategy”.

Prof. Saka emphasised the importance of research ethics in research grant winning which he explains as a specific principles, rules, guidelines and norms of research-related behaviour that research community has decided are proper, fair and appropriate. He highlighted the following research ethics principles

which include: voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for harm, results communication, honesty, objectivity, morality, prudence, openness and respect for intellectual property, confidentiality, responsible publication, responsible management, respect for colleagues, social responsibility, anti-discrimination, integrity, objectivity and accountability.



**Prof. Abdulkareem Ambali Saka**

Similarly, The Vice Chancellor, Summit University, Prof. Abiodun Musa Aibinu, while presenting his paper titled, “Identifying and Engaging with Potential Funders” noted that a concept note is a brief outline of the project you have in mind and it should not be more than 2-3 pages unless the donor agency has specific requirements.

Prof. Aibinu further stated that most donors publish the call for concept notes on their websites, other websites, or print media. He added that some organisations that request general concept notes are TETFUND, The European Commission, USAID, UKAID, World Bank, and other large foundations.

Prof. Aibinu pointed out that there are basically two types of concept note; solicited concept note which is when one is invited to submit a concept note while unsolicited concept note is when

one sends a concept note without an invitation. He added that for a concept note to be regarded as one, it should meet the following criteria; precision, clarity of idea, audience engaging, spelling out of the benefits and harmonisation of all paragraphs.

The Bursar, Al-Hikmah University, Mr. Hafis Omoniyi while presenting his paper titled, “Budgeting and Financial Planning for Grants” pointed out that a budget in a university environment is a formal written financial statement of the proposed expenditure and expected revenue from either government grants, educational trust funds, petroleum trust fund in Public Universities or internally generated revenue for a particular period (in our case, one year). He added that budget has two aspects which are revenue and expenditure.

Mr. Omoniyi noted that the fundamental importance of a budget is to control the financial behaviour of administrators in the institution as budget prevents waste or reckless spending of fund meant for various teaching and research services of the institution. He added that some methods of preparing budget, include: traditional/line items/incremental budgeting, zero-based budgeting techniques, planning, performance & budgeting system (PPBS), performance budget, periodic budget, flexible budget, capital expenditure budget and rolling plan & continuous budget.

In his words, “the following techniques should be a guide for any grant winning proposal; clear and unambiguous objectives, measurable objectives, compliance with the project development objectives (PDO), new invention/innovation, ownership status of the proposal parent institution, collaboration with similar institutions and industry partners and expert in the field of the proposal, impact of the proposal toward development of the economy

## EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO WIN RESEARCH GRANT - PROF. SAKA

and institution in general, embrace accountability and transparency in your action”.

Mr. Omoniyi urged every tertiary institution to see grant winning as priority due to financial impact of it on institutions and the economy in general. He emphasised that grant is another way of funding institution and there are a lot of opportunities in the global World, but accessing grants is by coming up with a sound winning proposal in which this presentation should facilitate should promote.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Noah Yusuf in his remarks revealed that since the inception of this administration in July 2020, a focal attention of our academic engagement has been to improve the capacity of lecturers towards quality service delivery. Hence, a number of

workshops and trainings (both physical and virtual) were organised for this purpose.

The University don said despite the above, it is the belief of the management that we are still far from being there, especially, as far as research grant capability of our academic staff is concerned. He added that this is the reason the management budgeted and approved a reasonable amount as Annual Senate Research Grant commencing from 2021/2023 academic session. Only two research groups were successful in their proposals while there was no success recorded for the individual category.

Prof. Yusuf pointed out that the above scenarios were meant to justify the essence of today's workshop. In his words, “it is our belief that at the end of this two-day workshop, participants

would be able to: obtain requisite skill to make them capable of winning proposals for national and international grants, obtain wider knowledge on accessing national and international grants, constitute themselves into interdisciplinary research groups for the purpose of accessing grants; leverage on the participation of academic staff from public universities to synergise on accessing TETFund and continue to attract research funds to their respective universities”.

Prof. Yusuf reiterated that the management knows how vital research winning is to the survival of universities especially the private ones that do not get subvention from the government. He, therefore, urged all academic staff present to seize the opportunity to improve their research writing proposal skills.



Group picture of Al-Hikmah University Management with the participants

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## CHILDREN ARE RESPONSIBILITY – DR. OWOYALE

**A** lecturer in the Faculty of Education, Dr. Abdulgani Ibrahim Owoyale has urged parents to discharge their responsibilities accordingly to their children.

Dr. Owoyale made this statement in his office in an interaction with the information crew of Al-Hikmah University on Monday, 4th April, 2023 in the Atere Campus of the University.

He added that children are source of joy but some have turned to source of sadness for their parents because their parents did not follow

the guidance of how Muslims are to raise children in line with the dictates



of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

In his words, “there are certain things parents must do to ensure that their children are sources of joy. These include: inculcating in children the knowledge of oneness of Allah and prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) as his messenger; instructing them to worship Almighty Allah from age three and spank them from age seven if they refuse, infusing good character in them among others.

Dr. Owoyale therefore, urged parents to wake up to their responsibility in order to have a crime free society.

## NIGERIAN ARMY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION PAYS AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY COURTESY VISIT

**T**he Nigerian Army College of Education (NACOE), Sobi Cantonment on Tuesday, 28th March 2023 paid a courtesy visit to the management of Al-Hikmah University.

The team was led by the Provost, Major General Shuaibu Ibrahim to discuss how the Nigerian Army College of Education and AL-Hikmah University can collaborate and further enhance the quality of education in Kwara State and Nigeria at large.

The provost further pointed out that he is also interested in Al-Hikmah University Centre for Peace and Security Studies and he promised to sensitise his colleagues and subordinates on the importance of the

programme.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Noah Yusuf appreciated the Major General and his team for counting the

university worthy of such a visitation and beseeched Allah make the collaboration beneficial to both parties.



Group picture of Major General Shuaibu Ibrahim, Provost, Nigerian Army College of Education with his entourage (L-R: 7th position) with Al-Hikmah University Management

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## AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY COLLABORATES WITH FRSC ON ROAD SENSITISATION PROGRAMME

**A**l-Hikmah University in collaboration with Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) organised a sensitisation programme for students, pedestrians and drivers on Wednesday, 5th April 2023, on the just completed Al-Hikmah University road, Ilorin.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Noah Yusuf, in his address stated that all universities are established on a tripod system, which are teaching, research and community service. He added that the impact of such a community service should be felt by everyone, especially, the host community.

In his words, “the reason for holding this sensitisation programme is to reduce the rate of accident and reckless driving on Al-Hikmah University road. The university would also add road signs, speed limit and zebra crossing to curb the rate of accident on the road”.

The State Coordinator for Special Marshals, Otunba Fedrick Adefolaju in his speech, remarked that the FRSC regular and special marshals are men of honour and integrity and they should be treated as such.

Otunba commended the management of the University for their foresight and urged them to intensify their effort. He said this is what is needed to drive the country forward and advised other intuitions to adopt the foresight of the faith-based University.

The Special Duty and External Relations (SDER), Officer Ikenwude Emeka Patrick, stated that Al-Hikmah Special Marshal Unit should occasionally enlighten road users. He added that such enlightenment should be extended to other areas in Ilorin with the aid of mass media as one cannot be sure who would ply the route at any given time.

The Sector Public Education Officer (SPEO), Officer Basambo Olayinka Busari, in her speech reiterated that the community and its environs should be able to feel the impact of Al-Hikmah University Special Marshal and this could only be done if the marshals are persistent and dedicated.

The Registrar, Dr. Kazeem Adebayo Oladimeji in his comments said that most people do things with

impunity, especially in a place such as Ilorin where the laws are a bit relaxed. He added that in a sane climate, all road users must obey road signs as they would not go unpunished if violated. He, therefore, urged the marshals to be steadfast in enforcing the law so that road users can abide by the rules of the road.

He thanked everyone present, especially, the regular marshals and prayed Almighty Allah continue to bless them and their family.

Other special marshals present at the sensitisation programme were Deputy State Coordinator, Elder Lanre Esan; Deputy Patrol, Mr. Kayode Ajibade; Special Marshal Patrol, Augustus Edogun; and Al-Hikmah University Special Marshal team.



Group picture of Al-Hikmah University Management with FRSC regular and special marshals



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## KATSINA STATE GOVERNMENT SENDS 35 STUDENTS TO AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY ON SPONSORSHIP



The Governor of Katsina State, Rt Honorable Aminu Bello Massari has awarded

scholarship to 35 indigenes of Katsina State to study any course of their choice available in Al-Hikmah University. The first batch of students arrived on Tuesday, 28th March, 2023.

The Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, Department of Higher Education, Katsina State, Dr. Sani Inuwa Danmusa said the first batch of students were 18 and were admitted into diploma courses at Abdul-Raheem College of Advanced Studies (ACAS), Igbaja, Kwara State which is an Affiliate of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, Kwara State.

The director added that, “the

second batch of 17 students would arrive any time soon. He said that the Governor was impressed with the pace of development and the quality of education in the institution which propelled him to enroll the students into the University.

The Founder, Alh. Chief (Dr.) Abdulraheem Oladimeji while receiving the awardees at his residence in Adewole Housing Estate, Ilorin, thanked the Governor for his generosity and love for the faith-based institution. He prayed the students graduate on record time and with good grades.

### ALL OUR COURSES IN AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY ARE ACCREDITED – VC



**Prof. Muritala Awodun**

The Vice Chancellor, AL-Hikmah University, Prof. Noah Yusuf has said Al-Hikmah University currently assumes the status of a University in which parents and wards can have full assurance and guarantee that any academic programme of their choice has been fully accredited.

Prof. Yusuf made this statement at the press briefing on the results of the 2022/2023 Accreditation of National University commission (NUC) on Friday, 31st March, 2023 at the board room in Main Campus, Adeta.

The university don pointed out that the current accreditation status of

the university has provided additional selling point for the university as a foremost citadel for quality education with moral and spiritual excellence. He added that with the latest excellent outing in the NUC accreditation, the university currently has virtually all its academic programmes in full accreditation status. The few outstanding ones are those new programmes which are yet to mature for NUC accreditation. For most of the undergraduate programmes in the university, the full accreditation status is valid till another five years (2025 & 2027).

Prof. Yusuf highlighted the results of the November/December, 2022 accreditation exercise as follow: English (full accreditation), Agriculture (full accreditation), Human Anatomy (full accreditation), Computer Science (full accreditation), Information System (full accreditation), Education Physics (full accreditation), Law (full accreditation), Biology (full accreditation) and Geology (full accreditation). All the aforementioned courses would be matured again for accreditation in 2027.

In his words, “Since we assumed

office on 13th July, 2020, the recent accreditation exercise would be the third under our administration. The first was in November 2020 in which the University had overwhelming success with full accreditation status in 22 programmes. Again, in January, 2021, the University slated 11 academic programmes for the same exercise and like the previous one, the University had an excellent performance with all the 11 programmes attaining full accreditation status”.

The Vice Chancellor appreciated all the critical stakeholders of the University for their consistent support to the current management which has contributed in no small measure to the huge success recorded in all spheres, including the accreditation exercise. On behalf of the management, we thank the Founder and Chairman Board of Trustees, Chief (Dr.) Abdulraheem Oladimeji; Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Alhaja Sekinat Yusuf; all Deans and Head of Departments as well as both academic and administrative staff of the institution for their commitment and support during the accreditation exercise.