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GOV RADDA RECEIVES FUDMA GOVERNING COUNCIL, NEW VC, REAFFIRMS CONTINUOUS SUPPORT FOR VARSITY

By Maryam Saidu

Katsina State Governor, Mal. Dikko Umaru Radda, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to continuously support the Federal University Dutsin-Ma (FUDMA), in line with his administration's priority on education and human capital development.

Governor Radda made the commitment when he received the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University's Governing Council, H.E. Alh. Ali Abubakar Jatau, some members of the Council and Management, at Muhammadu Buhari House, Katsina.

The Governor noted that his administration "values strong collaboration with the Universities and other educational institutions and is willing to support FUDMA" whenever the need arose.

"The Katsina State Government is willing to support the University", he said, stressing however that "you must improve communication between the University and the Government".

According to Governor Radda: "Our wish is for FUDMA to be one the best universities in the country. With the experience of the new Vice Chancellor, we are optimistic that the University would be taken to greater heights".

He congratulated the Pro-Chancellor and members of the Governing Council for steering a transparent process that produced the new substantive Vice Chancellor of the University.

Governor Radda stated that his administration "values strong collaboration with educational institutions" and charged the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University's Governing Council "to constitute a committee headed by the Vice Chancellor, to sit down with the Secretary to Katsina State Government and the Commissioner of Internal Security and marshal out plans for the university in terms of security".



FUDMA VC, Prof. M. K. Othman delivering his address while Governor Radda listens attentively. Seated to the Vc's right is the Pro-Chancellor and Governing Council Chairman, HE Alh. Ali Abubakar Jatau



Governor of Katsina State, HE Mal. Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD

On the effective utilisation of the state-owned Songhai farm in Makera in Dutsin-Ma Local Government, the Governor disclosed that the State Government, under the Agricultural Development Unit, had devised a programme for its full utilisation starting with the training of some youths in agriculture. According to him, over 100 youths had been successfully graduated, with another batch of more than 300 recruited for the next batch of the training "at the end of which the trainees would be settled with facilities and money to go into the component of agricultural training they were given".

He welcomed the participation of FUDMA in the training and in other aspects of research to make Songhai have more impact to people of the state and the country, directing the Commissioner of Higher, Technical and Vocational Education, "to liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Development Unit for the attainment of the objective".

The Governor pledged a donation of one tractor from the Agricultural Mechanisation Centre to the University, just as he did to Umaru Musa Yaradua University, noting that the State Government, recognising the intensive capital outlay in roads construction, would nevertheless, assist FUDMA in that regard.

On the University's request to make use of the Dutsinma General Hospital for its students in the College of Health Sciences, Governor Radda said the Commissioners of Higher Education and Health should liaise with FUDMA and look into the request.

He further stated that the State Government had ordered for 30 hybrid CNG buses that would be deployed to assist in mass transportation in metropolitan areas like Katsina, Daura, Dutsinma and Malumfashi, saying "FUDMA staff and students would benefit from this deployment of the buses to ease transportation challenges".

The Governor also promised to forward the University's request for a land in the state capital for the building of a Guest House to the Ministry of Land and Survey for necessary action.

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Earlier, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, H. E. Alh. Ali Abubakar Jatau, explained that “the courtesy visit is to introduce the new Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. K. Othman, to the Governor and for the Vice Chancellor to tell the Governor his mission and vision to uplift the University”.

Alh. Abubakar Jatau prayed for Allah’s protection and guidance for the Governor in handling the affairs of the state.

In his address, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. M. K. Othman, pleaded for “the opening of a new chapter in the relationship between FUDMA and the state government; one in which the University plays a more deliberate and structured role in supporting your administration’s agenda in education, agriculture, security and human capital development”.



Pro-Chancellor/Chairman Governing Council of FUDMA, HE Alh. Ali Abubakar Jatau (standing in blue) delivering his speech, while Governor Radda and others listen

In this spirit, Prof. Othman highlighted “a few strategic areas where stronger collaboration and targeted government support would yield significant mutual benefits for the state and the University”.

“These areas”, he said, include “improvement of internal road networks and institutional logistics”, as the University’s permanent site was designed as an integrated academic community, but that “the effectiveness of this design is currently limited by the condition of internal road networks and mobile infrastructure”.

The Vice Chancellor also advocated for collaboration in the revitalization of state-owned Songhai farm and donation of tractors to the University, saying: “Agriculture remains vital to Katsina State’s economy, livelihoods and food security goals. With FUDMA’s strong foundation in agricultural research, extension services and innovation, the University is eager to collaborate with the state government to revitalize the state owned Songhai farm into a commercially successful enterprise and a regional hub for agricultural training and innovation”.



Katsina State Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Abdullahi Garba Faskari (in glasses), the Principal Private Secretary to the Governor, Alh. Abdullahi Turaji (centre) and FUDMA’s DVC (Academics), Prof. Abubakar Sadiq Suleiman (1st Right)

Prof. Othman also suggested for partnership in education and human capital development, stressing that “sustainable development ultimately depends on sustained investment in human capital. Federal University Dutsin-Ma hosts a growing pool of scholars and professionals across diverse disciplines and is well positioned to support the government through policy advisory services, educational consultancy, teacher training, leadership development and capacity building programmes” he stated.

The Vice Chancellor also solicited for the deployment of Community Security Watch Groups, Logistics and Coordination to FUDMA, commending the state government’s ongoing efforts to tackle security issues across the state. “The University”, he said, “understands that campus safety is closely linked to community security and remains committed to supporting government initiatives through research, intelligence, community engagement and institutional coordination”.

He requested for the Governor’s approval for the use of Dutsinma General Hospital as a platform for strengthening health research, training and service delivery. “The establishment and growth of the College of Health Sciences at FUDMA necessitates access to a functional research driven and teaching oriented clinical environment that integrates services delivery with academic excellence. In this regard, Dutsinma General Hospital presents a strategic opportunity to serve as a teaching and research hospital under the operational and managerial oversight of the University”, the Vice Chancellor added.

Prof. Othman also pleaded with the Governor for the allocation of a land in Katsina for FUDMA, “to further support sustainable university funding, community involvement and shared development goals”.



Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD (9th Right), Pro-Chancellor/Chairman of FUDMA Governing Council, HE Alh. Ali Abubakar Jatau (10th Right), the new VC of FUDMA, Prof. M. K. Othman (8th Right) and other Council and University Management members, pose for a picture shortly after the courtesy call on the Governor