



KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL FEATURES

KASU Marching to Excellence: Motivation and Utilizing Emergent Technologies

ISSN 2286-6987

VOL. 82 No. 6

April 3, 2026

KASU Consult Retreat: Converging Minds for Institutional Growth



By: Hamza Musa Makarfi

Barely moments after the retreat commenced, I quietly stepped into the venue, taking a seat at the back to observe. There was a certain calm intensity in the room, one that comes when purpose meets responsibility. It was immediately clear that this was no routine gathering, but a crucial engagement underscored by the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, alongside the three Deputy Vice Chancellors (the university's tripod) supported by the Registrar, the Bursar, the Administrator of KASU Kafanchan Campus, Provosts, Deans as well as Directors and other key stakeholders.

It was simply designated the KASU Consult Retreat, an initiative emerging from the University's broader strategic engagements and conceived as a critical pillar in strengthening its drive toward sustainable revenue generation. Yet, beyond the formalities, what unfolded was a sincere attempt to rethink how the university can better position itself in a changing educational and economic landscape.

Inside the retreat, conversations were both reflective and forward-looking.

At intervals, you could sense participants pausing, weighing ideas, and building on one another's thoughts.

Consultancy was framed not just as a service but as a bridge between academia and society, where knowledge finds relevance through training programmes, professional certifications, research commercialisation, and strategic partnerships.

There was a shared understanding that with dwindling funding and uncertainty, institutions like Kaduna State University must look inward, drawing strength from their collective expertise.

What stood out most was the honesty of the conversations.

There was a recognition that while pockets of consultancy efforts exist, they often operate in silos. The retreat, therefore, became a space to begin

stitching those efforts together towards a more coordinated, standardised, and purposeful framework.

Discussions around innovation, patenting, and translating research into bankable ventures were not just theoretical; they carried a sense of urgency. Equally compelling was the emphasis on stepping outside the university walls. Participants spoke of

quiet consensus began to form, that KASU Consult can, and should, become a model for others if properly nurtured.

The retreat did not last longer than necessary. Its focus and intensity ensured that every moment counted. Yet, as deliberations drew to a close, one lingering thought found its way into the room. I raised a simple but pressing question on the



Vice Chancellor Prof. Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa (2nd Left), the three Deputy Vice Chancellors and Registrar at the Retreat

engaging industries more deliberately, of listening, identifying real challenges, and responding with solutions that matter. It was a subtle but important shift: from knowledge for its own sake to knowledge that solves problems and creates value.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, in his remarks, reinforced this direction, urging participants to think beyond possibilities and begin to define clear, actionable pathways. His words resonated across the room, reminding everyone that capacity alone is not enough. It must be harnessed with intention and discipline.

As the sessions unfolded, what began as a formal retreat gradually took on the feel of a shared journey. Ideas flowed, perspectives aligned, and a

timelines for achieving some of the ideas so passionately discussed. The response was telling: those timelines would form part of the next phase of engagement. In that moment, it became clear that this was not an end but a continuum, a retreat not confined to a single sitting but an evolving conversation.

Leaving the venue, one could not help but reflect on the significance of such moments. Sometimes, transformation does not announce itself loudly; it begins in rooms like this through conversations, clarity of purpose, and a willingness to do things differently. For KASU, this retreat may well be remembered as one of those defining steps toward a more innovative and self-sustaining future.

Consultancy was framed not just as a service but as a bridge between academia and society, where knowledge finds relevance through training programmes, professional certifications, research commercialisation, and strategic partnerships.

PARTICIPANTS AT THE KASU CONSULT RETEAT







Award of Excellence

