

## PROF. MARYAM ABDU URGES GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES TO EMBRACE BONDS OVER COSTLY LOANS IN PROJECT FINANCING



By: Hamza Musa Makarfi

**P**rofessor of Finance, Maryam Abdu, has urged governments and companies to embrace bonds as a cheaper and more sustainable alternative to costly domestic and foreign loans in financing projects.

Professor Maryam Abdu made the call while delivering the 18th Professorial Inaugural Lecture of Kaduna State University titled: “Market Analysis, Optimizing Returns and Yields and Implementing Micromanagement Towards Achieving and Building Diversified Investment Undertakings.”

In her presentation, captured in a 73-page inaugural lecture book structured into six chapters, Professor Maryam Abdu provided a comprehensive exploration of finance, investment, and economic management.

The lecture commenced with an introduction to the major components of finance: personal finance, corporate finance, and public finance, laying a strong foundation for understanding financial systems and decision-making processes.

The second part examined dividend and financing decisions, highlighting debates surrounding the relevance and irrelevance of dividend policy as well as capital structure in corporate financial management.

The presentation underscored how financing choices influence organisational growth, profitability, and investor confidence.

Attention then shifted to market analysis, with detailed insights into the Nigerian economic environment.

Key indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, and foreign exchange rates were analysed alongside the structure and performance of Nigerian money and capital markets.



In discussing strategies for optimising returns and yields, the lecture explored investment opportunities in defensive stocks, dividend-paying equities, and various categories of bonds including FGN Bonds, Savings Bonds, State Bonds, Corporate Bonds, and Supranational Bonds. The session emphasised prudent investment decisions and wealth preservation in a dynamic economy.



The fifth chapter focused on the management and building of diversified investment undertakings through asset allocation, diversification across investment classes, geographic diversification, and alternative investments as pathways to reducing risk and enhancing long-term financial stability.

In her conclusion, Professor Maryam Abdu encouraged investment in both the money and capital markets, stressing that such activities stimulate economic growth and national development.

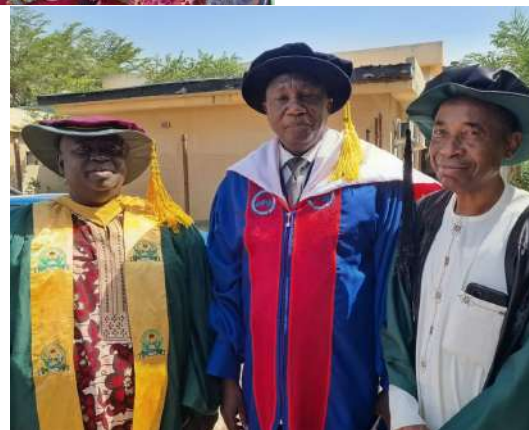
She explained that money market instruments help tackle inflation while also providing returns to investors. She further noted that bonds issued by governments and companies provide cheaper and longer-term financing options compared to domestic and foreign loans, which often place heavy burdens on the Nigerian economy.

She therefore called on governments, companies, and investors to continue participating actively in bond and capital market activities, noting that the capital market remains a key indicator of the nation's economic performance.

The professor also reaffirmed her commitment to continued research on investment activities and their contributions to economic growth and development.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Abdullahi Ibrahim Musa, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Professor Yusha'u Ibrahim Anjo said the institution will continue to provide conducive environment for intellectual engagement and research excellence.

The inaugural lecture attracted members of the academic and non-academic communities, prominent traditional and religious leaders, professionals, and other distinguished personalities, including former Governor and Visitor to the University, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero, Kaduna-based Islamic scholar Sheikh Ahmed Gumi, the Sarkin Kaya, and scores of professionals from different sectors.



# MORE PICTURES FROM THE 18TH PROFESSORIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE





**T**he First Female and 14th President and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers, Fiona Ahmed Ahimie, who joined the lecture virtually, announced the sponsorship of 10 students for the Capital Market Examination.

In a similar development, another company also pledged sponsorship support for students pursuing the diploma programme as well as the Capital Market Examination.

