# AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY (ABU), ZARIA

**AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AND FORENSIC BIOTECHNOLOGY (ACENTDFB)**

***ACCOUNTING MANUAL UPDATE: BANKING REGIME & TSA EXCEPTION POLICY***

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| **AMENDMENT REF NO:** | ABU/ACENTDFB/FIN/AM-UPD/2026-02 |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE:** | November 7, 2026 |
| **REGULATORY PRECEDENT:** | FGN 2026 Research Grant Donor Fund Policy Exemption |

## 1.0 CONTEXT & HISTORICAL PRECEDENT

In 2019, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) fully enforced the Treasury Single Account (TSA) regime, mandating all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs)—including federal universities—to consolidate both domestic and foreign currency bank balances into a unified single account structure domiciled at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). While this policy successfully maximized cash pooling and governance across the public sector, it introduced complex bureaucratic bottlenecks and operational validation layers that delayed disbursement cycles for research grant operations, subsequently slowing international laboratory procurement timelines at ACENTDFB.

## 2.0 THE 2026 REGULATORY POLICY EXEMPTION

To eliminate administrative delays and optimize the operational execution of internationally funded research programs, the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2026 enacted a targeted regulatory exemption to the overarching TSA mandate. Under this newly authorized directive, research grant donor funds are formally permitted to bypass central CBN consolidation. Consequently, these designated resources may now be legally held, managed, and dispersed through commercial banks approved by the Accountant General of The Federation (AGF), ensuring swift local and foreign currency processing flexibility.

## 3.0 ACCOUNT MAINTENANCE & FUNDING AGENCY AUTONOMY

In direct alignment with the 2026 FGN policy relaxation, ACENTDFB explicitly adapts its financial infrastructure to protect the independence and audit trails of distinct research grant provisions. The center adopts the following dual-tier banking framework:

- Commercial Bank Operations: ACENTDFB is authorized to maintain specialized local (Naira) and foreign currency (Domiciliary) operational bank accounts within stable, tier-1 commercial banking institutions.
- Dedicated Account Isolation: Where an international funding agency explicitly mandates that its project provisions be held separately from the center's general research pools, ACENTDFB will honor

this contractual obligation by establishing a dedicated, ring-fenced bank account for that specific grant. This measures ensures that co-mingling of distinct donor funds is avoided.

## 4.0 COMPLIANCE, DISBURSEMENT CONTROL, & AUDIT CONTROLS

The migration of grant provisions from the CBN to commercial bank channels does not relax public accountability standards. The Project Accountant must apply rigorous accounting safeguards to protect these isolated institutional accounts:

- Independent Reconciliation: Every commercial bank account opened under this exemption must undergo independent monthly bank reconciliation processes closed within the first 5 working days of the subsequent month, with statements delivered to Internal Audit.
- Dual Authorisation Controls: Transaction validation on all commercial accounts remains strictly bound to the institutional hierarchy. All mandates require initial check by the Project Accountant, authentication by the Finance Officer and final approval by the Centre Leader.
- Audit Visibility: All records, bank statements, transaction logs, and specific donor accounts maintained under this protocol must remain fully transparent and accessible to both internal auditors and appointed external auditors during annual audit exercise.

**Approval Date**: November 13, 2026

**Signature**: 

**Name and Status of Approving Officer:** Prof Y.K.E. Ibrahim, Centre Leader