

Senate Amends NOUN's Law

– graduates now to attend Law School, NYSC



The Senate at the Plenary Session

The senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has amended the Law that established the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) and made provision for the graduate of NOUN to participate in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme and the Law School.

The amendment followed a clause by clause consideration of the

report of the Senate Committee on TETFund, chaired by Senator Jibrin Barau on the amendment of NOUN Act. The review aligned NOUN's Act with the requirements of the Universities Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Act 2012, which regulate all universities in the country.

In his submission, Chairman of the Committee, Senator Jibrin Barau said the amendment would address

the wrong perception that NOUN was an on-line university. He allayed the fears of would-be and current students of the NOUN that the certificates obtained were valid and equal to any from any university in Nigeria and the world. The major difference was the mode of delivery and other related assessment methods, he maintained.

He observed that the usage of the two concepts of correspondence and part-time to describe the university had significantly affected the way the public viewed its programmes and was partly the reason Law graduates of the NOUN were refused admission into the Nigerian Law School as well as their exclusion from the National Youth Service Scheme.

He added that NOUN was duly established and licenced with enabling laws and had full complements of required human and material resources to deliver its mandate.

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NUC, US Embassy Hold Seminar on Gender Education

The National Universities Commission (NUC) in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America last Tuesday held a one day seminar at the NUC Auditorium to sensitize the Nigerian University System and other stakeholders on a draft curriculum on gender education.

The theme of the workshop was “Indigenous Science and Culture as a Pathway to Empowering Women.” and was organised to discuss the scholarly works of a Professor of Humanities from the University of Wisconsin, USA, Dr. Jamaine Abidogun, in her research on the ethnography of the people of Nsukka Community as a full-bright fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN).

Declaring open the event, the Executive Secretary, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR, commended the initiative of the US Embassy towards promoting the issues of gender education at the highest level in the country.

He stated that the Commission treat gender issues with serious concern, based on the understanding of the critical role it plays in balancing the society, adding that NUC partnered with UNESCO to develop Gender Studies curriculum for the Nigerian University System (NUS) for the delivery of gender education both as a General Studies (GST) and



Prof. Abubakar Rasheed
Executive Secretary, NUC

specialised programmes, in June, 2016.

The Executive Secretary, represented by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Mal. Ibrahim I. Dan’Iya, acknowledged the scholarly contributions of the keynote speaker, Dr. Abidogun, whom, he recalled, had been a visiting scholar at the Humanities Department of UNN for nearly one year.

In his remarks, the Embassy’s Cultural Affairs officer, Mr Larrrie Scoriae, expressed delight at the turn out of participants to the programme. He thanked the NUC

for willing to collaborate with his Office to allow the Professor of Humanities, Dr. Abidogun to share her thoughts and research work on mainstreaming indigenous science and culture to the review of Nigeria’s education curriculum.

He described Dr. Abidogun as a distinguished lecturer, who as a Fulbright scholar had studied one of the communities in Nigeria in a bid to develop the best practices that would aid the teaching of sciences and science education at the primary and secondary education systems.

He noted that the idea of the sensitisation was to find a workable





L-R: Professor of Humanities from the University of Wisconsin, USA and Full-Bright Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Dr. Jamaine Abidogun ; NUC Director, Student Support Services and a discussant, Dr. Ruqayyatu Gurin and Specialist on Gender Issues in Higher Education, Mrs. Somachi Kachikwu

way to develop indigenous science and culture by ensuring that it brings empowerment to women.

She stressed that African countries must develop their science and cultural initiatives to enrich the curriculum in order to make it Afro-centric and the learners Afro-citizens. She also noted that at a time based on her empirical studies as a Professor of History, African

countries had some integrated books on their sociological experiences, history and religion, but that the western ideology later became the dominant.

According to her, the African perspective had always been there, but that it lost its visibility when everything western became the structure of the formal curriculum without the integration of the

African sense of history.

In a graphic representation of the ethnographic life of the people of Nsukka community in Enugu State, she explained that despite the fact that the women constituted a large part of the society, their own perspectives on the promotion of indigenous science and cultural knowledge were not acknowledged.



Deputy Executive Secretary, Mal. Ibrahim Dan'Iya (3rd row front); Director, Executive Secretary's Office, Mr. Chris Maiyaki (extreme left); Director, Management Support Services, Mr. Victor Onuoha and Deputy Director, Corporate Services, Mr. John Mairafi with other participants at the event





A cross section of participants at the sensitisation seminar

This, she said, was responsible for low empowerment of women in most rural communities, even when they displayed the same level of ingenuity or even more in their trades and crafts.

According to her, this had been passed on to generations such that in the current formal structure of the nation's curriculum, only few women could be seen in fields such as Engineering and Medical Sciences.

In her contributions, the NUC Director, Student Support Services and one of the discussants, Dr. Ruqayyatu A. Gurin, *mni*, said that the nation's curriculum needed to have a fusion of the indigenous scientific knowledge, cultural experience and the formal structure to create a balance in the delivery of science and technology education to the citizens.

She called for involvement of the indigenous communities through networking with the elders to gain more knowledge on how some of those local scientific discoveries came about.

She noted that when the indigenous people were given psychological empowerment that they belong to the decision-making process, it would open up a communication channel with them, a phenomena currently missing. Those who can influence the integration into the practices should be courted, she said.

She expressed delight that some of the women have also shown signs of ingenuity in the use of indigenous science and cultural knowledge in the areas of therapeutic healings, agricultural food processing and preservations, among others.

A Specialist on Gender Issues in Higher Education, Mrs. Somachi Kachikwu, re-echoed the need for mainstreaming of gender issues in the curriculum of Nigerian educational institutions especially, to teach them in the early years. On the action point, she called for more engagement of women to research opportunities that would enable them gain economic empowerment from their discoveries as cited by Dr. Abidogun in her work.

Also discussed were experiences and views on ways to integrate the traditional and indigenous scientific discoveries of the elders and the Nigerian people into the formal curriculum by adopting those ones that would add value to the nation's quest for scientific knowledge. Policy documents and curriculum review were shared, discussed and harnessed.





Proposed ICT Varsity ready September – *Communications Minister*

The Hon. Minister of Communications, Barr Abdur-Raheem Shittu has disclosed that proposed Information and Communication Technology (ICT) University would takeoff September this year, with the commencement of academic activities.

The Minister at the 2017 edition of West Africa's yearly conference and exhibition on Information and Communication Technology otherwise known as TechPlus that the university, would focus on adding value to the current level and pace of economic development in Nigeria by diversifying the economy and positioning the country as the leading ICT light in Africa.

He said that the era of university graduates roaming the streets looking for work after graduation would soon be over.

“The ICT University will be the first of its kind in Africa. It will compete with similar institutions in India and South Korea. It will be the first of its kind in public-private sector partnership and private bodies, institutions and organisations would be invited to adopt and take ownership of various departments and campuses and bring in all that is needed to create the desired ICT revolution in the country”, he stated.

In a related development, the Minister of Communications also urged Hewlett Packard (HP)



Barrister Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu
Honourable Minister
Federal Ministry of Communication

Nigeria to adopt one of the campuses of the proposed ICT University and develop it to a smart campus. He made the call through a press statement issued in his office by a staff of the Press and Public Relations Department of the Ministry, Mr. Austin Asoluka, when the management of the HP visited him to seek areas of collaboration in the development of the university.

He commended the company for being at the forefront among international organisations to take the initiative of collaborating with the ministry in the establishment of ICT University in Nigeria. He described HP as an 'end to end' organisation and one of the global leaders in ICT.

Hon. Shittu said his vision to open the university was predicated upon his findings that most Nigerian ICT-related graduates lacked skills. He said that the availability of infrastructure at the DBI among others were the reasons for the establishment of the university. He therefore urged the HP to develop a business model by creating areas of entrepreneurship which would ensure that graduates of the university became self-reliant and self-employed.

It would be recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari's administration had mandated the Minister of Communications to set up a university of ICT in recognition of the rapid pace of Information and





Communication Technology and the huge impact on the economy of countries that invested in it.

The Minister added that the University was created in fulfillment of the President's objective to set up University of ICT, so as to enhance learning environment and create millions of jobs through skilled ICT workforce.

He said that in compliance, the Ministry had set up an implementation committee to bring it to fruition.

Some members of the Implementation Committee for the Proposed ICT University conducted a physical assessment of the DBI in Enugu, one of the six ICT learning centres built by NCC in the country.

In his remarks during the visit, the Chairman of the Planning and Implementation Committee and the immediate past Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius A. Okojie, reiterated that the proposed ICT University would be a multi-campus institution of the present

DBI of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) located in Abuja, Lagos, Enugu, Kano, Asaba and Yola. The Committee had galvanised all efforts and resources to ensure the timely take-off of the University in September 2017, in line with the Minister of Communication's resolve, he added.

Other members of the committee included Dr. Henry Mkemadu, Matthew A. Olaniyan, Director-General, Voice of Nigeria (VON), Mr. Osita Okechukwu, while Dr. Amina Sambo Magaji serves as the Secretary.

Prof. Momoh Immortalised *– 100M TrustFund to support family and unveiled*



L-R: Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu; Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Dr. Kayode Fayemi and former INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega during the luncheon of Late Abubakar Momoh Solidarity Trust Fund.

In a memorial lecture organized by friends of the former Director-General of The Electoral Institute, Late Professor Abubakar Momoh, at the National Universities Commission (NUC), a N100 Million Solidarity Trust Fund was unveiled to support his family and

that of other comrades, dead and living.

Speaking at the Memorial Lecture, the former Governor of Ekiti State and Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who launched the fund, said that it

would not only assist families of deceased and living colleagues, who may be having challenges, but would also ensure that their children were supported educationally.

According to him, "The solidarity Trust Fund we want to establish





Prof. Mahmood Yakubu with other members of the ECOWAS Network of Electoral Commissions (ECONEC)

today with Momoh's memorial lecture is worth establishing because Abu used his resources to promote varieties of progressive causes. The idea behind the solidarity fund is the one that is long overdue." He described Professor Momoh as a patriotic Nigerian who sacrificed his time and energy serving the country diligently and advocated for a just and fair society.

In his speech, the current Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Mamoud Yakubu recalled that one of the last assignment being carried out by Professor Momoh was to represent Nigeria in Cottonou in March this year, adding that Professor Momoh was an erudite scholar who sacrificed his time and resources in fighting the course of liberating the poor and the oppressed.

The former Chairman of INEC, Professor Atahiru Jega described Professor Momoh as one of those who made genuine sacrifice for the development of the country. He

recalled that Professor Momoh, as the treasurer of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), did not only keep the money with integrity, but also ensured that it was judicially utilised. He stated that he was also one of those who inspired him as the President of ASUU, adding that he was a true agent of change who stood for the truth passionately.

Professor Jega further advised that the funds should be judiciously applied to achieve maximum success.



Cross section of guests

Earlier in her presentation, the Guest Lecturer and President, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Professor Dzodzi Tsikata called on African leaders to sustain the principle of Pan-Africanism, which Abubakar Momoh stood for. She stated that the late Comrade Abubakar Momoh was a Professor of Political Science, until his appointment as Director-General (EIN), a training arm of INEC. He was also the Dean, Faculty of Social Science at the Lagos State University (LASU). He served on the Board of Democracy and Development and Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) as well as National Treasurer, ASUU, among others.

The event was attended by very distinguished academicians, politicians, friends and relatives of the deceased. The Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, *nni*, *MFR*, was represented by the Director, Executive Secretary's Office, Mr. Chris J. Maiyaki.



NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION IPSAS IMPLEMENTATION



Introduction:

The Federal Executives Council at its meeting held on 28th July 2010 approved that Nigeria should adopt the provisions of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for Private and Public Sectors respectively.

Consequently, the Federation Accounts Standards Allocation Committee (FAAC) at its meeting held on 13th June 2011 setup a Sub-Committee to provide a roadmap for the implementation of IPSAS in the three tiers of government in Nigeria.

The Roadmap to the adoption of IPSAS was phased as follows:

- Full Adoption of IPSAS Cash effective from 1st January, 2014.
- Adoption of IPSAS Accrual effective from 1st January 2016.

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has commenced the IPSAS implementation project that will enable a seamless adoption of the IPSAS accrual in the preparation and presentation of Financial Statements in line with the directives of Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) Sub-Committee on implementation of IPSAS.

Implementation Approach:

NUC is partnering with Nexia Agbo Abel & Co, to adopt a phased implementation approach which shall focus on the following areas;

- Regulatory Compliance
- Technical Accounting & Reporting
- Knowledge & Resource Management
- Process, Technology & Infrastructure

- Results Based Management
- Easy Comparison
- Competitive Advantage

- Quality
- Consistency
- Comparability

IPSAS

- Transparency
- Accountability

Expected Benefits:

At the end of this implementation project, NUC's financial reporting is expected to be fully IPSAS accrual compliant in line with the directive. This will ensure greater level of transparency, accountability and consistency in financial reporting just like similar Public Sector Entities (PSE), high-quality financial statements based on globally acceptable standards and audit efficiency.

