

Private Universities, Not For Profit

— Prof. Rasheed



L-R: The Vice Chancellor, Professor Rotimi Ajayi, The Chancellor, Rev. (Dr) Emmanuel Adeniran, The Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed, the Pro-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Okebukola, and Chairman, Board of Trustees, Dr. Gabriel Kayode Ajayi, at the 9th Convocation Ceremony of Crawford University, Igbesa, Ogun State

The Executive Secretary National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, has said anybody setting up a Private University with the sole purpose of making profit should drop the

idea and invest the money elsewhere as universities are not profit generating ventures.

Speaking at the 9th convocation ceremony of the Crawford University, Igbesa last Thursday,

Prof. Rasheed said that all over the world private universities were set up not for profit but as social service and the desire to advance knowledge and education for the upliftment of a group, a society or a nation.

in this edition



CRUTECH Holds 10th Convocation
— graduates 6,632

Pg. 5



NUC Holds Workshop on Academic Publishing

Pg. 8



Zangon Daura Leads Al-Qalam on Courtesy Visit to NUC

Pg. 10



Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed
Executive Secretary, NUC

According to Professor Rasheed Universities when established take up to half a century to fully mature, adding that people setting up universities do not live long enough to see them mature and “if the motive is profit they will surely be disappointed”.

He said that private universities must continually plough back most of their incomes into the development of more facilities, academic units, researches and infrastructure for the university to grow and take its due place amongst its peers and “as such there will be no profit to take.”

The NUC scribe explained that in Nigeria the establishment of private universities was pioneered by religious groups whose motives were definitely not profit and understandingly, most of the 74 private universities in Nigeria are owned by such religious bodies”, advising more individuals to come out and establish private universities as a way of giving back to society and helping the

country to migrate into the knowledge economy.

Professor Rasheed insisted that Nigeria was still grossly underserved in the number of universities.

Speaking on the Crawford University, Professor Rasheed said that the NUC was proud to be associated with Crawford University for three principal



Prof. Peter Okebukola
Pro-Chancellor

reasons. He said the university which was established some 12 years ago was one of the best run higher institution in Nigeria, adding that “unlike many public and private universities in the country, Crawford has continually been governed in line with global best practices.”

The second reason he said was academic excellence and moral high standard associated with the university. “From the record of the NUC, all the accredited programmes of the university have full accreditation”. He

congratulated the BOT, the council, the Senate, the management and the entire student body for creating a credible institution.

“Thirdly and very importantly, NUC identifies Crawford with Professor Okebukola, a rare Nigerian Intellectual, one of the most recognised and celebrated faces in International Academic Circles, one of the revered former ES of NUC, a man of wide, vast and deep learning and a man who has refused to be compartmentalized into one academic discipline, a Professor of Education, a Professor of science education, a Professor of computer studies, a Professor of computer engineering, a Professor of open and online education, a professor of higher education studies, a professor who has been professing excellence, promoting innovation, creativity and digital revolution”,

Professor Rasheed concluded that as the current Executive



Dr. Emmanuel Adeniran
Chancellor





L-R: Profs. Okebukola, Rasheed, Alh. Yakasai and Dr. Adeniran

Secretary of the Commission, “I am eternally grateful to Professor Okebukola for his deep knowledge”.

In his address, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council and former Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR, stated that by law, the Council was charged with the responsibility, among other things of laying down sound policies and monitoring the implementation of such policies. It also has the responsibility to appoint, promote and discipline the staff.

The Pro-Chancellor decried the present state of affairs where teachers are neglected in the scheme of things. Worse still, he said, was the scenario in Nigeria today, where a typical faculty of education of a university admits largely the dregs from the pool of UTME applicants. He blamed it on the fact that applicants for courses in Education and

Agriculture were the fewest, as most candidates want to read Medicine, Law, Engineering and what they considered as prestige courses.

Professor Okebukola predicted that the education system that we are crying about would continue to sink deep into quicksand of mediocrity if the nation continues along this trajectory.

In his Convocation Speech, the District Superintendent, West and Central Africa, Apostolic Faith Church, who is the Chancellor and Proprietor, Rev. (Dr.) Emmanuel Adeniran said that Nigeria with its high dose of corruption in high and low places was ugly. He opined that the high population of corrupt officials at the position of leadership requires us to tinker with the national curriculum to address the character, ethical and integrity challenges among the citizens. He said: “We should give everyone equal chance of

knowing what is functionally right in ethical, character and integrity context”.

Rev. (Dr.) Adeniran proposed that such a curriculum should include structures of societal and human relationships, the need for functional relationship with God and responsibility of account to Him of secret and public life, collective social and psychological efficacy, among others. According to him, one of the benefits of such curriculum is laying the foundation for morally-sustainable society built on positive character and integrity. He noted that Crawford, which was not alienated from the society, as a faith-based institution had deliberately pursued some programmes so as to raise knowledgeable graduates of good character. He, therefore, charged the graduands to realise that they now have a choice to determine the way they intend their lives to be shaped and prayed that they make the right





choices and stay on that path all through their life endeavours.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Isaac Rotimi Ajayi, in his convocation address, highlighted that a total of 230 graduated from the University's 9th Convocation, comprising 116 male and 106 female, while out of the total number, 22 made First Class and 40 graduated from the postgraduate diploma and master's level. He admonished the graduands to go and apply their training to solve the world's problems and to understand that the world was waiting for the value they would add to it through productivity and creativity.

The VC declared that, in today's Convocation were a total of 230 graduands for the award of first degrees and 40 for the award of postgraduate diplomas and Masters degrees and prizes

presented to some outstanding graduands.

The statistics shows that 22 graduands (9.7%) made first class, 88 (38.3%) made second class upper division, 83 (36%) are graduating with second class lower division, while 37(16%) of the graduands fall into other categories.

It is notable however, that twelve out of the twenty-two first class graduands are females while ten are males; and a total of 116 males comprising of 71 from the college of Business and Social Sciences and 53 from the college of Natural and Applied Sciences are graduating.

The successful re-accreditation of 12 of our academic programmes by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in June, 2017. The

preparation for the accreditation was indeed tasking and vigorously for every staff but God Almighty was gracious in seeing us through. We are particularly grateful to our spiritual father, the proprietor and chancellor who did not leave any stone unturned in supporting the University throughout the period.

He was on hand interceding and supplicating on our behalf; and also monitoring every stage of the preparation and the Accreditation exercise itself.

Unquantifiable was the relenting and energetic support of the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR, who deployed the arsenal of his intellectual ability and experience by conducting a series of workshops for all academic staff to prepare us for the exercise. On the whole, it was a holistic preparation



Cross section of graduands





CRUTECH Holds 10th Convocation — graduates 6,632



L-R: Governor of Bayelsa State, Chief Seriake Dickson; former Gov. of Kaduna State, Sen. Ahmed Makarfi; Gov. of Cross River State, Prof. Ben Ayade; Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, Uti J.D. Agba; Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of CRUTECH, Dr. Emil Inyang, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Anthony Owan Enoch and the Registrar

No fewer than 19 graduands bagged First Class degrees out of a total number of 6,632 at the 6th to 10th Combined Convocation Ceremony of Cross River State University of Technology (CRUTECH), held recently at the University Main Campus, Calabar.

In his Convocation address titled “The Transformation of a University”, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Anthony Owan Enoch, noted that it was the first time the Institution was successfully bringing together men of distinction to honour and also graduating postgraduate students. Harping on building a new CRUTECH, he said that anyone that visited the University after his assumption of office would recognise the ambience that contradicts too

sharply with its past.

According to him, there had been extensive reclamation of the swamps and farmland as it concerned the Calabar Campus through determined and collective efforts of his management team. This, he said, had brought about extended total usable area by over 40 per cent.

On infrastructural development, Professor Enoch remarked that the University’s physical transformation was supported with tremendous infrastructural development, including the completion and utilisation of a ten-year abandoned Primary school project; renovation of Works Department; University library from a state of near disuse to its current statues of comfort and aesthetics. Others were the

construction of classrooms and office blocks, renovation of hostels and lecture theatres, among others.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the University was one of the first to set up a Directorate of Quality Assurance Unit, which earned it commendations by the National Universities Commission (NUC). He noted with pride that CRUTECH remained one of the few in the country where conference marking of examinations scripts had become a permanent feature. This, according to him, had resulted to checking perceived abuses by the very few who, before now, attracted adverse public opinion to the Institution. Other achievements of the University, Professor Enoch highlighted included, digitisation of all





Prof. Enoch with the Representative of the ES and NUC Director, Inspection and Monitoring, Mrs. Essien Usendiah at the convocation

university results, re-introduction of annual scholarship awards to deserving students; accreditation of programmes and operation of a University Consultancy Services.

Stressing on the Combined Convocation, Professor Enoch revealed that the first degree graduands were from the institutions' seven faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, Basic Medical Sciences, Communication Technology, Education, Engineering, Environmental and Management Sciences.

He gave a further breakdown of the graduands as follows: 1,609 Second Class (Upper Division), 4,994 with Second Class (Lower Division), 1,104 earned Third Class and 10 students earned a pass." At the Postgraduate level, a total of 293 students graduated from the Faculties of Engineering, Management Sciences, Education,

Communication Technology and Environmental Sciences (at both the postgraduate diploma and Masters Degrees).

In his speech, the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty, Uti J.D. Agba, urged the University to aspire to achieve phenomenal growth to enable it stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other Nigerian Universities, so as to rank amongst the best. This, he said, could be achieved when all

stakeholders contribute their individual quota to meet the myriad of parameters set by the NUC.

He expressed hope to see cooperation among all from the Government, the Governing Council, Management, staff and students so as to galvanise the Institution to an unrivalled height. He tasked the stakeholders and friends of the University to take a moment and reflect on the needs of the young university and the importance of university education to support it to a higher level of excellence in all spheres.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Dr. Emil Inyang, stated that a university is a complex system with varied interests and networking, which requires sensibility and good working relationship among members of the system to work towards a common goal and attaining the desired objectives as a whole. He expressed delight



CRUTECH Procession





Vice Chancellor,
Prof. Anthony Owan Enoh delivering
his Convocation Address



Dr. Inyang, and Prof. Enoh

that the Council which he superintends had enjoyed the working relationship and support of students, staff, management, senate and the unions. This harmonious relationship, he explained, had contributed very immensely to the relative conducive atmosphere prevailing in CRUTECH. He gave kudos to the state government, TETFund, NUC, some agencies, groups and

individuals who had contributed towards the development of facilities and infrastructure in all the campuses of the University.

Meanwhile, the Cross River State Governor, Professor Ben Ayade had instituted a N100m research grant, with a charge on the state university, to invent a technology that could generate electricity from micro and minor water resources, particularly

boreholes and underground water.

The Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rsaheed, mni, MFR, FNAL, was represented at the convocation by the Director, Inspection and Monitoring, Mrs. Essien Usendiah.

The event featured the installation of Paramount Ruler of Obudu, Uti Joseph Davies Agba, as the second Chancellor of the University and the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Arts History (Honoris Causa) on him.

Also conferred with honorary degrees of Doctors of Business Administration and Environmental Management (Honoris Causa) were former governor of Kaduna State and Immediate Past Interim National Chairman of the PDP, Senator Ahmed Makarfi and governor of Bayelsa, Henry Seriake Dickson, respectively.



Academic Procession





NUC Holds Workshop on Academic Publishing



L-R: DRI& IT, Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf; DES, Universities Education, Prof. Chiedu F. Mafiana; Steve Ghosh and Duncan Nicholas



Mal. Ibrahim Iro Dan Iya
Deputy Executive Secretary, Administration

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has partnered the Enago Academy on Academic Publishing for Junior and Midcareer Academics in the Nigerian University System (NUS) for the purpose of improving the quality and quantum of scholarly articles and publications in the Universities.

In his welcome address, the Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR, FNAL, represented by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Research, Professor Chiedu Mafiana, said that the workshop was born out of concern for young academics in the system to train them on the requisite knowledge, skills and nuances of academic publishing. This, he said was necessary condition for promotion in the academic profession.

According to him, "It is common

knowledge in the academic community that the quality and quantum of research publications is synonymous to accelerated career development and global recognition in a chosen area of specialization. This has been the norm in all academic institutions in the world over. Thus, this workshop was borne out of concerns for young academics and/or researchers in the NUS to gain the requisite knowledge, skills and nuances of academic publishing."

The Executive Secretary expressed hope that at the end of the workshop, participants would be able to understand the intricacies of academic publishing, demonstrate application of knowledge by identifying high impact journals for publication, enhance individual and institutional capacities, promote the quality

research output emanating from Nigeria Universities as well as harness the opportunity to advance the global visibility of Nigerian Universities and ultimately improve its academic rankings.

The NUC scribe charged the participant to put the knowledge acquired to practice by taking advantage of the Three Billion naira national research fund provided by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and also be able to write grant-winning proposals that can attract research funds and publish such research findings in high impact journals.

The Executive Secretary disclosed that the workshop would be held in other geopolitical zones in the country so as to ensure that the target audience within the NUS was reached. According to him,





Some NUC Directors

“Today’s workshop, which is targeted at Universities in the Northern region will be replicated across the remaining four geo-political zones of Nigeria with the University of Lagos hosting the South-West region, University of Port-Harcourt hosting the South-South region and the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka hosting the South-East region during the course of the week.”

In his remarks, the Director, Research, Innovation and Information Technology, Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf, charged academics to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the workshop to sharpen their skills and be globally competitive as universities were global communities.

He said it was through workshop, young academics would be able to Identify what classifies as a good journal for publication and citation purposes; Understand the intricacies of academic publishing for first-time researchers and authors while improving the quality of articles

published by experienced authors; Reflect on the opportunities that abound for researchers to publish academic materials in their various fields of study; and to demonstrate application of knowledge by identifying high impact journals for publication.

This, he said would not only enhance the career progression of academics and also promote the global visibility of Nigerian

Universities but would ultimately improve the academic rankings of Nigerian Universities.

Enago Academy is a United Kingdom based knowledge platform offering up-to-date resources on scholarly publishing for researchers, authors, publishers and academic societies. Enago Academy provides assistance to researchers and authors, help journals and publishers to produce quality articles and collaborate with Universities and academic institutions by conducting author workshops for first-time authors and researchers; improve the quality of publications from universities by training experienced authors to publish in high impact factor journals and increases the awareness of the scholarly publishing industry among graduate students.



A cross section of participants at the workshop





Zangon Daura Leads Al-Qalam on Courtesy Visit to NUC

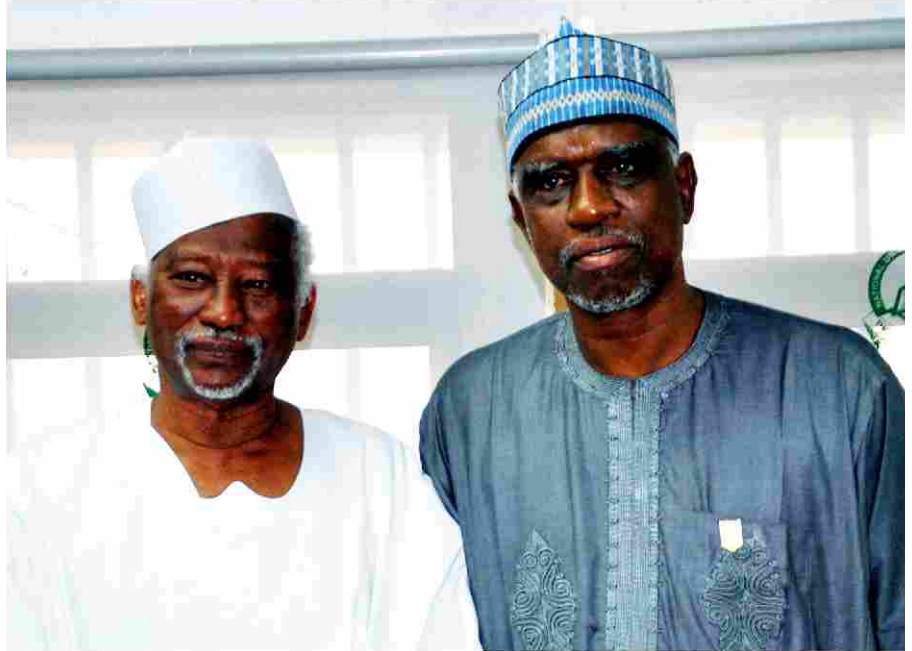
The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Al-Qalam University, Katsina, Alh. Sani Zangon Daura, *CON*, Dan-Masanin Daura led a delegation of Council and management of Al-Qalam University on a courtesy call on the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC) Abuja, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, *MFR*, *FNAL* last Friday in NUC headquarters Abuja.

The Executive Secretary said he was delighted to host Alh. Sani Zangon Daura, an elder statesman, a former Minister and a highly revered and humble personality.

The ES said the visit came at a critical time when the commission is reorganizing and refocusing to meet the National and global challenges.

Professor Rasheed remarked that accreditation and other quality assurance exercises were becoming cumbersome and costly and keeps growing. Therefore, the need to streamline and make the exercise more efficient become sacrosanct. He said in order to make it cost effective, accreditation take place biannually while Resource verification to be conducted three times a year.

He further mentioned that Nigeria has 154 Universities



Pro-Chancellor, Al-Qalam University, Sani Zangon Daura and E.S, NUC, Prof. A.A. Rasheed

which comprises of forty owned by Federal government including the specialized universities such as the Military, Police, Agriculture, Science and Technology universities located across the country. The scribe added that the States have forty six Universities shared among each state with exception of Zamfara. He said some States have more than one university while a few have three universities to their credit.

Professor Rasheed further stated that sixty eight Private Universities were licenced and had commenced programmes while another six were approved by the Federal Executive Council recently.

According to him, it gladdened

the heart that Al-Qalam University was among the first licenced Private Universities that proved its worth in terms of quality graduate output. He gave an instance where a first class graduate of Al-Qalam University competed excellently in Bayero University recruitment of Graduate Assistants and emerged among the best, emphasizing that the graduate was hired and would soon complete his PhD abroad.

The Executive Secretary took time to commend other Private Universities that supported the effort of federal government by opening up spaces and were doing well in producing graduates capable of rubbing shoulders with their counterparts globally. However, he lamented





L-R: Prof. Rasheed, Dan Masanin Daura, Prof. Ado, Alh. Hamza and Alh. Yakasai anchoring the discussion

the sad scenario in the proliferation of awarding first class degree to undeserving students, mostly by private universities.

The scribe recalled that Al-Qalam University faced some leadership challenges and difficult test at its inception until the current Vice Chancellor, Professor Shehu Ado was appointed, pointing out that the challenges gave way to peace and tranquility with the changes made and the leadership prowess of its Pro-Chancellor and chairman of council, Sani Zangon Daura.

The coming of these two leaders in the governance of Al-Qalam brought sanity, peace and placed the institution on a sound pedestal.

He urged the chairman and the

Vice-Chancellor to continue with the good job, advising him to embark on advocacy by appealing to conscience of its community leaders to help in pushing the university to a greater height.

In his speech, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Sani Zangon Daura stated that he was humbled and very grateful for the warm reception and praises showed on him by the ES and the Director, Corporate Communication, Alh. Ibrahim Usman Yakasai.

The Chairman narrated that Al-Qalam University was established in 2005 as Katsina University now renamed Al-Qalam University, stating that the university began with only four programmes; English, Islamic Studies, Arabic and Computer science.

After taking over by the current leadership, the university “expanded to 22 programmes in four colleges covering Basic Medical Sciences, Social and Management Sciences, Education and Humanities”. In terms of student enrollment, “the University boasts of more than 6,700 undergraduates and postgraduate students. There is 240 academic staff including visiting Professors and as well established school of postgraduate studies.”

The chairman was happy to mention that the “maiden and combined (second to sixth convocation ceremony held on Sha’aban 7, 1437AH (May 14, 2016) the total number of graduates stood at 1,678, out of this, 22 got first class, 400 second class upper, 916 second class lower, 322 got third class and 18





passed degrees”, alluding Al-Qalam University had within a short time, made enormous contribution in shaping the society by having its graduates in all walks of life.

The Pro-Chancellor commended the NUC for putting in place credible experts in its accreditation exercise, acknowledging that Al-Qalam university accepts in good faith all the 13 academic programmes visited in June, 2017. He assured the Executive Secretary that all deficiencies would be addressed while applauding the panels for their thoroughness and objectivity in the conduct of the exercise. However, the Dan Masanin Daura made a special request to NUC with regards to Chemistry programme.

In his response, the Executive Secretary appreciated the Pro-Chancellor for the visit and

solicited for a stronger relationship and partnership in the interest of the Nigerian University system.

He, then, assured the delegation that the request tabled would be presented and discussed at the management level of NUC, and Al-Qalam would be duly notified.

The Scribe was very optimistic that the current leadership and the work it stated bespeak of a promising university that could take a leading position, if the current tempo continued and further major decisions to improve were brought and implemented.

After all was said and done, the Director, Directorate of Academic Planning Dr. Bello Gidado Kumo thanked all the visitors especially the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of

Council, Alh. Sani Zangon Daura for his mentorship and leadership across the nation and for taking Al-Qalam to this enviable position.

Those in the entourage of Al-Qalam were Professor Shehu Ado Garki, Vice Chancellor, Professor Aminu Salisu Mikailu, Dr. Umar Musa Mustapha, Dr. Tijjani Muhammed Naniya, Alh. Sani Abashe Adamu, Registrar and Akilu A. Atiku, Information Officer.

On the NUC side, the Directors, Establishment of Private Universities, Alh. Abdullahi Hamza, Corporate Communication, Alh Ibrahim Usman Yakasai; International Cooperation and Liaison Services, Mrs. Constance Goddy-Nnadi; Academic Planning, Dr. Gidado Bello Kumo as well as Deputy Director, Information, Mal. Haruna Lawal Ajo were in attendance.



Group photograph of visiting Al-Qalam and NUC Management 6th and 7th right; Alh. Sani Zangon Daura and Prof. Rasheed

