Senators Decry Gross Underfunding of NUC, Education

Chairman, Senate Committee on Tertiary Education and Tetfund, Sen. Jibrin Barau (3rd left), L-R: Senators: Foster, Abaribe, Bwacha, Adeleke and Egu during the senate 2018 budget defence for Federal Ministry of Education and parastatals

The Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETfund has advocated for an increase in funding especially for the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Education Sector generally in view of the critical role of university education to national development.

Speaking during the 2016 - 2017 Budget performance meeting and 2018 Budget Defence for the Federal Ministry of Education and its parastatals at the National Assembly last Monday, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Jibrin Barau noted that "it would be difficult for the Executive Secretary to carry out the mandate of Mr. President in repositioning the Nigerian University System to be at par with world class universities with the very low budgetary allocation to the Commission."

He observed that for the Honorable Minister of Education to be able to effectively lead the Education Sector to be globally competitive in line with Mr. President's directive there was need for adequate budgetary appropriation for the entire education sector.
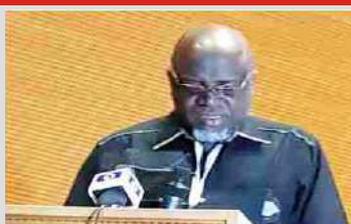
The Chairman lamented the inadequate funding to the university subsector adding that with such a challenge, it was

in this edition

NUC Ranks Open Educational Resources (OER)
…NUS Richest in OER in Africa

JAMB Reviews 2017 Exams, Releases Time Table for 2018

Banking Regulatory Bodies Urged to Sanitize Sector

difficult for Nigerian universities to be globally competitive.

He stated that the Committee would soon be embarking on oversight visits to the Ministry, Departments and Agencies as well as Tertiary Institutions in order to assess the level of implementation and performance of the 2016-2017 budgets as well as make 2018 projections.

All Senators who spoke advised the Executive Secretary to come up with a robust funding plan for the NUC and NUS promising that it would provide the necessary legislative support to address the challenges.

They said that a situation where the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning put a ceiling on the allocations to MDAs based on preceding year's performance was not acceptable.

In his submission, the Honorable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, assisted by the Honorable Minister of State for Education, Professor Anthony Anwukah and the Permanent Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono presented the Ministry's releases and utilization of funds approved in the 2016-2017 budget, percentages of work done on various projects, IGR and its utilization and projections for 2018 fiscal year.

Hon. Minister of Education, Mal. Adamu Adamu (center) flanked by Hon. Minister of State for Education, Prof. Anthony Anwukah (right) and Perm Sec. Arch. Sonny Echono (left) at the senate 2018 budget defence

The minister decried the short fall in the ministry's 2017 allocation and appealed to the Senate to address the challenge in the 2018 appropriations.

Responding to questions on the ongoing industrial actions embarked upon by some unions in some tertiary institutions, the Permanent Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono said that the contentious issues were mainly on shortfall in salaries and allowances, adding that the ministry was already dialoguing with the aggrieved unions. He also informed the committee that the minister had constituted a high powered committee for the revitalization of the education sector.

The Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor, Abubakar Adamu Rasheed thanked the senators for their concern and their strong desire to address the budgetary challenges of the NUC and the NUS.

L-R: JAMB Registrar, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede; Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed and ES, NBTE, Dr. Adamu Kazaure

R-L: ES, NUC, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed making his presentation; Director, Finance and Accounts, Mr. Sam Onazi; Director, Corporate Communications, Ibrahim Usman Yakasai and Ag. Director, DSSS, Dr. Maryam Sali

He said that currently, there were 160 Universities in Nigeria and that the major responsibility of the NUC was to protect the integrity and value of Certificates issued by the Nigerian universities.

He disclosed that NUC had constituted a high-powered committee of "credible senior academics including former minister of education, former ES, NUC, former chairman of INEC and VCs. The committee he said had six- terms of reference to help reposition the Nigeria University System and was expected to submit its reports within six weeks.

Prof. Rasheed described as fake the recent ranking of universities ascribed to the commission. According to him "NUC has not ranked any university in the country."

Professor Rasheed indicated that in order to move the NUS forward, he had initiated and implemented far reaching reforms, such as the curriculum review of academic disciplines; more effective data collection on staff and students in the NUS; the introduction of new academic programmes; policy on research and technology; ICT improvement policy; and the new PG policy to ensure that PG students from Nigeria and other African countries are trained in African universities and largely retained in Africa.

Front row: Mal. Adamu Adamu (2nd right), Prof. Anthony Anwukah (1st right) and Perm. Sec. Education, Arch. Sunny Echono (3rd right) with other dignitaries at the public hearing

NUC Ranks Open Educational Resources (OER)

…NUS Richest in OER in Africa

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has ranked the Open Educational Resources (OER) in the Nigerian University System with the result showing that Nigerian universities were the best in OER in Africa.

The exercise which was initiated by the Executive Secretary, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, mni, MFR, FNAL, was aimed at encouraging quality and healthy competition among Nigerian Universities running Open and Distance Education.

A release by the commission showed that with 12,070 quality OER holdings presented by 50 universities for the pilot exercise, Nigerian universities are now among the best in Africa in OER.

According to the report it was estimated that with full release of the OER holdings and participation by all universities, this number may quadruple in the next two years making the Nigerian university system the richest in OER in Africa. The OER ranking exercise is to be conducted twice a year.

The report described Open Educational Resources (OER) as teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been

Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed, *mni, MFR, FNAL*
Executive Secretary, NUC

released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adapt and redistribute by others with no or limited restrictions. They are technology-enabled, open provision of educational resources for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for non-commercial purposes.

It further said that materials that constitute OER include curriculum maps, course

Overall Ranking out of 160 universities

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1.	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	891	30
2.	Mountain Top University	535	26.3
3.	Edo University, Iyamho	563	25.1
4.	University of Lagos	1244	25
5.	University of Ibadan	1015	25
6.	Covenant University	634	25
7.	Redeemer's University	656	21
8.	University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City	679	19.4
9.	Nnamdi Azikiwe University	522	19
10.	Landmark University	724	16
11.	Lagos State University	375	16
12.	Babcock University	480	15
13.	University of Port Harcourt	295	13
14.	University of Maiduguri	795	12
15.	Usmanu Danfodiyo University	532	10
16.	University of Abuja	385	10
17.	Crawford University	257	10
18.	Wellspring University	131	6.9
19.	Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo	98	6
20.	Federal University of Technology, Akure	354	5
21.	Afe Babalola University	221	5
22.	Caleb University	92	5
23.	Cross River University of Technology	142	4
24.	Arthur Javis University	46	3.4
25.	Adeleke University	117	2
26.	Coal City University	65	1.1
27.	Abia State University	53	1
28.	Kings University	50	1
29.	Federal University of Technology, Minna	41	0
30.	Modibbo Adama University of Technology	32	0
31.	McPherson University	15	0
32.	Federal University, Kashere	13	0
33.	Ekiti State University	9	0
34.	Salem University	7	0
35.	Edwin Clark University	2	0

materials, textbooks, streaming videos, pictorial materials, multimedia applications, podcast, and any other materials that have been designed for use in teaching and learning environment.

The OER ranking exercise was conducted by the 12-member National Experts Group on OER Ranking (NEGOR) and a four-person team of external experts from outside Nigeria.
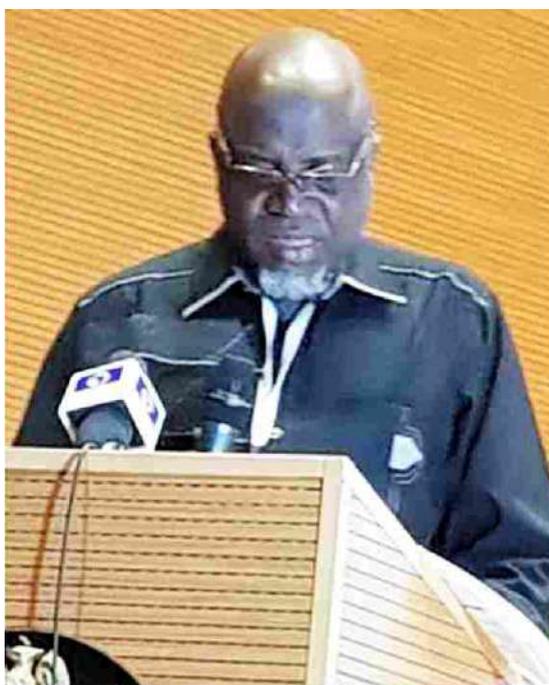
Fifty universities that participated in the pilot edition were ranked by (a) ownership (federal, state and private) and (b) generation within ownership. The results are shown below.

JAMB Reviews 2017 Exams, Releases Time Table for 2018

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) last week held a stakeholders meeting where it released the timetable for the 2018 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for prospective candidates and also reviewed the successes and challenges experienced during the 2017 exercise.

In his adress , the Registrar of the Board, Professor Is-haq Oloyede declared that the meeting and other forms of engagements with stakeholders had become necessary in order to carry the general public along in the programme and activties of the Board with respect to the upcoming UTME.

According to him stakeholders' meetings and other forms of engagement had become the most potent strategic platform to share and validate the board's vision, solicit and obtain feedbacks and input, ensure buy-in of critical stakeholders and generally exchange information and create awareness.

Prof. Is-haq Oloyede delivering his speech

"This approach, which is being ingrained in all facets of the Board's activities as we strive to achieve our mandate, is paying great dividends and our 2017 UTME achievements would have been less without the benefits of involvement of you, our stakeholders," he stressed.

Professor Oloyede said that the preparation for the 2018 UTME began in November 2017 with the inclusion of Mobile Money Operators in order to increase the platforms and ease the payment

process for the 2018 UTME by applicants adding that in In addition to Banks, Mobile Money operators, Online payments (Remita & Interswitch), a USSD platform was also introduced as an additional payment platform.

He said after the various meetings with stakeholders, the Board had included G l o b a l c o m telecommunication among the mobile telephone service providers and had also initiated some reforms in the application process.

According to the Registrar "Profile creation using Candidate's Unique Cellphone Number to achieve effective communication from the Board to the candidates, eliminate extortion of candidates by CBT Centers and Cyber Cafés with respect to (email) profile creation and ease the process for candidates, the profile creation has now been simplified."

He said that Short Service Code

L-R: Former Registrars JAMB, Prof. Salim and Dr. Abdulrahman and other dignitaries

was now employed on the four Mobile Operators' Networks with candidate sending his / her name to 55019 on his / Unique Cellphone Number and receiving a Profile Code (attached to the Phone Number).

The Profile Code would be maintained and used for all subsequent transactions, including procurement of ePIN to purchase the Application Document.

The JAMB Registrar said that more payment platforms (options) had been provided this year with thousands of outlets across the country to procure ePIN. "The additional platforms include Mobile Money Operators, ATMs, and NIBSS supported USSD payment platform." These platforms complement our payment partners for the 2017 UTME exercise – Banks, NIPOST, Remita and Interswitch, he said.

Professor Oloyede revealed that in the course of monitoring the Registration exercise, "we discovered that a particular Mobile Service operator was engaging in multiple charging of candidates for failed service. We have issued stern warning to Telecom providers to desist and ordered the particular service provider to refund the excess charges to the affected candidates."

In the same vein, he said some banks were manually writing the ePIN for candidates as against automatic delivery to the candidates' unique numbers thus creating the potentials for introducing unnecessary errors.

He further said that the CBT Centre Accreditation process had been strengthened and new requirements had been added such as provision of toilet as part of the examination hall thus putting the candidates under focus at all times during the examination.

Other measures include automation of some elements of the process to eliminate human errors, discretion and collusion. These elements include Local Area Network, availability and suitability for the examination, capacity of the CBT Centre's Test Delivery Clients (candidates; workstations), and harvest and inventory of the details of the 250 systems and 25 backup systems at each CBT Centre to eliminate round tripping and combat the incidence of the "VIP Room".

He said that the results of the automated accreditation would be used in conjunction with the physical assessment to make the final decision.

Professor Oloyede disclosed that Technical Advisors also participated in the Accreditation Process in their respective State and a meeting had been scheduled ahead of the Mock Examination to share the accreditation results with the CBT Centres.

He further revealed the following:
(A). A more robust and fortified Custom Browser has been developed and deployed for the Accreditation exercise. Unlike in 2017 UTME where some CBT

L-R: Former Registrars JAMB, Prof. Salim and Dr. Abdulrahman

Centres optionally used other generic browsers, the use of the new Custom Browser is mandatory and cannot be bypassed. It does more than an interface for candidates to take examinations.

B). The 2018 UTME Delivery Software employs biometric authentication of the Technical Officers to receive examination on the delivery server and activate it for the candidates. And the examination cannot be activated ahead of the scheduled time. Of course, our policy on no biometric authentication for candidates and no participation in the examination stays.

C). The Board has prohibited additional materials during the 2018 UTME in the examination hall. These include wrist watches, biros, calculator, biros, pencils except the common HB pencil, and any other device that can store data, transmit or receive signal no matter the form. These prohibitions are not only applicable to the candidates but to all examination officials. The

reasons for this will be provided shortly.

D). Scanned pictures of candidates are no longer accepted for registration, except live capture at the accredited CBT Centres as part of the Registration Procedure. Furthermore, candidates' pictures will be embossed on all candidates' documents generated by JAMB henceforth.

E). Strategic Retreat on Smart Cheating and Counter Measures
In response to the challenge of smart cheating, the Board convened a Strategic Retreat to identify the various technology devices used for examination practices and the measures to proactively address them towards the end of last year. The select participants were experts from within and outside the country with some members of the Board's top Management.

The objectives were to build a repository and archives of technology devices and methods

in use for examination practices to serve as reference and build awareness, identify and profile all possible threats of technology supported examination malpractices, develop effective counter measures to detect, deter and prevent use of these technology devices and methods for cheating in the Board's examinations, and continuously update information about the technology devices and methods and make it available to relevant officials and stakeholders to equip them with the knowledge and skills to protect the credibility of the board's examinations. The Retreat re-affirmed the prohibition of the additional items mentioned earlier. Implementation of the Retreat's Report has commenced.

F). Our Approach and Methods for 2018 UTME build on the achievements of 2017 UTME, draw on the lessons, address the identified challenges and seek further improvement in the integrity of the Board's examination. While 2017 UTME is significant for the aforementioned reasons, 2018 UTME is symbolic also.

The JAMB Registrar declared that the 2018 UTME time table took into consideration the activities of other public examination bodies in the country.

According to him "To aid planning and harmonisation with activities of sister organisations, particularly other examination

bodies in the country, we drew up a calendar of activities from the commencement of sale of Application Document to the conduct of Mock and Main Examinations. The calendar is as follows: 6th December 2017 to 6th of February 2018, Sale of application forms to applicants; first week in February 2018 mock examination; the examination proper will hold from 9th to 17th of March 2018.

The Registrar expressed optimism that the 2018 examination would be an improvement of the 2017 exercise and called for the cooperation of all stakeholders for the success of the examination.

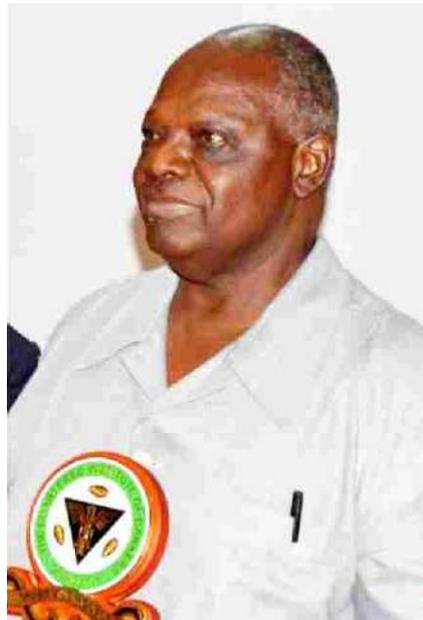# Banking Regulatory Bodies Urged to Sanitize Sector

Regulatory bodies for banking and other financial institutions have been charged to urgently look into how financial institutions are going by their marketing and other customer relations strategies.

The Acting Vice-Chencellor of Elizade University, Ilara-Mokin, Ondo State, Prof. Theophilus Fadayomi made the call while receiving the leadership of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) who paid a courtesy visit on him in his office recently.

The professor of Economics stressed that the image of the banking profession has been dented with the use of young ladies who are employed to use their bodies to bring deposits to their banks rather than devising vibrant marketing strategies that could sustain the nobility that the sector once enjoined.

The Don added that the displacement of ethical value in the profession has made many bankers richer at the expense of the future of the young.

Prof. Fadayomi informed that Elizade University, in its efforts

Prof. Theophilus Fadayomi
Ag. Vice Chancellor, Elizade University

at ensuring professional accreditation of all its academic programmes, would partner the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) for its Department of Accounting and Finance.

He said that with the accreditation of many of the academic programmes offered in the University by professional bodies like COREN, ACCA, ICAN, among others, students of the University would have opportunity of becoming professional even before the

completion of their studies in the University.

Speaking earlier, the President of the Institute, Prof. Olusegun Ajibola expressed the readiness of the Institute to partner with the University in order to jointly prepare the students for their chosen profession.

He stated that his Institute could add professional touches to the curriculum of the Department by introducing courses that would equip the students for research in finance and allied matters.

Prof. Ajibola reiterated that seminars, conferences and retreats would be organized for the students in order to instill the professional ethics in them.

He added that the agreement would include relevant disciplines like Business Administration, Economics, Accounting and Marketing.

The CIBN boss, while lauding the quality of facilities in the University, commended the Management of the University for taking the professional accreditation of the programmes seriously.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION
ADVERTORIAL

NUC MAKES HISTORY IN RANKING OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

The National Universities Commission has made history in conducting the first-ever ranking of Open Educational Resources (OER) held in institutional repositories. It is the first exercise of its kind in the world and it was initiated by the Executive Secretary of NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, mni,MFR for application in the Nigerian University System. The exercise showed that with 12,070 quality OER holdings presented by 50 universities for the inaugural exercise, Nigerian Universities are now among the best in Africa in OER. It is estimated that with full release of the OER holdings and participation by all universities, this number may quadruple in the next two years making the Nigerian University system the richest in OER in Africa. The OER ranking exercise is to be conducted twice a year.

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adapt and redistribute by others with no or limited restrictions. They are technology-enabled, open provision of educational resources for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for non-commercial purposes. Materials that constitute OER include curriculum maps, course materials, textbooks, streaming videos, pictorial materials, multimedia applications, podcast, and any other materials that have been designed for use in teaching and learning environment.

The OER ranking exercise was conducted by the 12-member National Experts Group on OER Ranking (NEGOR) and a four-person team of external experts from outside Nigeria.

Fifty universities that participated in the inaugural edition were ranked by (a) ownership (federal, State and private) and (b) generation within ownership. The results are shown below.

2017 NUSOER RANKING

Federal-First Generation (out of 6 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	University of Lagos	1244	25
2	University of Ibadan	1015	25

Federal-Second Generation (out of 9 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	891	30
2	Nnamdi Azikwe University, Akwa	522	19
3	University of Port Harcourt	295	13
4	University of Maiduguri	795	12
5	Usmanu Danfodio University	532	10
6	Federal University of Technology, Minna	41	0

Federal-Third Generation (out of 11 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	University of Abuja	385	10
2	Federal University of Technology, Akure	354	5
3	Modibbo Adama University of Technology	32	0

Federal-Fourth Generation (out of 10 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo	98	6
2	Federal University, Kashere	13	0

State Universities-First Generation (out of 21 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Lagos State University	375	16
2	Cross River University of Technology	142	4
3	Abia State University	53	1
4	Ekiti State University	9	0

State Universities-Third Generation (out of 12 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Edo University, Iyamho	563	25.1
2	University of Medical Science, Ondo City	679	19.4

Private Universities-First Generation (out of 23 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Covenant University	634	25
2	Redeemer's University	656	21
3	Babcock University	480	15
4	Crawford University	257	10
5	Afe Babalola University	221	5
6	Caleb University	92	5
7	Salem University	7	0
8	Al-Hikmah University	0	0
8	Bells University of Technology	0	0
8	Joseph Ayo Babalola University	0	0
8	University of Mkar	0	0

Private Universities-Second Generation (out of 20 universities)

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Mountain Top University	535	26.3
2	Landmark University	724	16
3	Wellspring University	131	6.9
4	Arthur Javis University	46	3.4
5	Adeleke University	117	2
6	Coal City University	65	1.1
7	Kings University	50	1
8	McPherson University	15	0
9	Edwin Clark University	2	0

Overall Ranking out of 160 Universities

Rank	University	Total Count	Total OER Score
1	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	891	30
2	Mountain Top University	535	26.3
3	Edo University, Iyamho	563	25.1
4	University of Lagos	1244	25
5	University of Ibadan	1015	25
6	Covenant University	634	25
7	Redeemer's University	656	21
8	University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City	679	19.4
9	Nnamdi Azikwe University	522	19
10	Landmark University	724	16
11	Lagos State University	375	16
12	Babcock University	480	15
13	University of Port Harcourt	295	13
14	University of Maiduguri	795	12
15	Usmanu Danfodio University	532	10
16	University of Abuja	385	10
17	Crawford University	257	10
18	Wellspring University	131	6.9
19	Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo	98	6
20	Federal University of Technology, Akure	354	5
21	Afe Bablola University	221	5
22	Caleb University	92	5
23	Cross River University of Technology	142	4
24	Arthur Javis University	46	3.4
25	Adeleke University	117	2
26	Coal City University	65	1.1
27	Abia State University	53	1
28	Kings University	50	1
29	Federal University of Technology, Minna	41	0
30	Modibbo Adama University of Technology	32	0
31	McPherson University	15	0
32	Federal University, Kashere	13	0
33	Ekiti State University	9	0
34	Salem University	7	0
35	Edwin Clark University	2	0

Ibrahim Usman Yakasai
Director Corporate Communications