

Adamu Adamu Backs Africa's Higher Education Harmonisation Agenda

The Honourable Minister of Education (HME), Mallam Adamu Adamu has aligned with the African Quality Assurance Agencies on their desire to focus on sustaining the harmonisation agenda of the continent's higher education system at regional and global levels.

He said its achievement would ensure comparability in higher education and facilitate the establishment of a continental Accreditation and Quality Assurance across Africa, thereby securing the mobility of staff and students across board.

The Minister made this known while declaring open the 11th International Conference and Workshop on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa (ICQAHEA) hosted by Nigeria

and held recently at the Harmonisation Agenda of Higher National Universities Education in Africa."



Mal. Adamu Adamu
Hon. Minister of Education

Commission (NUC), Abuja with the theme "Towards Sustainability of Continental

Represented by the Minister of State for Education, Hon. Emeka

in this edition



NUC New Curriculum
To Ensure Youth
Empowerment
—Professor Rasheed

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Grand Patron NUC
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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ibrahim Usman Yakasai (Chairman), Mal. Haruna Lawal Ajo (Editor), Ogbonnaya Okoronkwo, Mrs. Franca Chukwuonwo, Miss Bunshak T.S, Francis Azu, Udey Felix, Aja-Nwachukwu Samuel, Sadiq Abubakar

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Nwajiuba, Mal. Adamu noted that the effort would provide opportunities for sharing experiences, collaboration and networking on quality assurance among Africans and their HEIs.

The Minister stated that the federal government of Nigeria was cognizant of the complimentary roles external and internal quality assurance played in ensuring that proprietors appropriately rise to their institutional obligations as well as enabled institutions to ensure that they do not go below stipulated standards.

He said that internal quality assurance mechanism was critical to the success of any country's

continued to encourage universities in Nigeria to set up Quality Assurance Units or



Hon. Chukwemeka Nwajiuba
HMSE

Directorates that would promote efficient and effective internal quality assurance in the system.

Mallam Adamu appreciated the

other interested parties on quality and standards as well as give credibility to awards and award holders.

He said it also engendered confidence in purchasers that they would be making a worthwhile investment when they enroll in academic programmes and ensure accountability in respect of the investment of public fund, as well as provide clarity regarding the purpose of programmes.

In line with this, the HME disclosed that NUC had over the years developed a robust quality assurance system for the Nigerian University System (N U S), which was internationally recognised and



HMSE, Hon. Emeka Nwajiuba (3rd left); NUC Board Chairman, Emeritus Prof. Ayo Banjo (centre) ES, NUC, Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed (3rd right); DES (Acad), Dr. Ramon Yusuf (2nd left); Chairman ICQAHEA, Prof. Juma Shabani (2nd right); Chairman LOC, Prof. Chiedu Mafiana (far right) and President of AfriQAN, Prof. Jonathan Mba (far left) during the opening ceremony

national quality assurance system, adding that when entrenched in a higher education institution, the problem of academic fraud from input through the process domain to the product would be minimised. Towards this vein, he said the government had

organisers for choosing Nigeria for the second time after it hosted the 7th edition where he underscored that quality assurance was important as it guaranteed the provision of information to the public and

applauded. He said the Commission's accreditation system included programme accreditation for undergraduate, postgraduate, affiliate and part-time programmes as well as institutional accreditation.



Other quality assurance systems highlighted were those that involved establishment of

Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, for being awarded with the first **Exemplary Leadership in**

harped on the need to abolish the policy of insularity in Nigeria by thinking more on harmonisation. He said that there should be an interchange of students in African universities as being practiced in Europe and America.



Perm Sec. FME, Arch. Sony Echono; Prof. Emeritus Ayo Banjo and Prof. Rasheed

He said Africans should not confine themselves to only quality of teachers, students and equipments but also to produce graduates with advanced thinking. The NUC Board Chairman argued that if African continent could do a lot more, its challenges would be alleviated.

universities and their programmes, inspection and monitoring, physical facilities and space utilisation in the institutions, research output and Open and Distance Learning (ODL), among others. On measures to improve access without compromising quality by the government of Nigeria, Mallam Adamu said they included expansion of human and material resources to increase the carrying capacities of universities, licencing of more private universities and support for development of ODL mode of learning.

Higher Education Award by the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) Africa and African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN).

Professor Banjo also called for harmonisation, stating that it would help students move from one African country to the other. He commended the organisers of



NUC Directors at the event, L-R: Dr. Adesina, Mr. Odum, Dr. Sali and Mr. Farouk

He used the forum to congratulate the Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor

In his remarks, Chairman of NUC Governing Board, Emeritus Professor Ayo Banjo,

the conference noting that with their vision and interest for higher



education in Africa, it would enhance the development of the continent.

In a concept paper titled **Harmonisation: A Boost to Continental Integration**, Professor Rasheed explained that harmonisation was about creating harmony and sharing experience in higher education and was based on the principle that no nation had all it took to tackle all its challenges. He said, that no matter how endowed, even the best universities in Africa could hardly provide the solution to all the continental challenges. Other reasons for harmonisation hinged on emerging technology, new pedagogy, new focus on governance systems, globalisation and internationalisation as well as continental development.

The Executive Secretary argued that harmonisation in higher education system in Africa was not about uniformity, but ensuring that in Africa's diversities and quality pursuit, higher education should promote critical examination and analysis of issues from different dimensions to create a robust pool of knowledge of any subject area, which therefore, ensured the interplay of knowledge for human advancement.

He recalled that the effort at

continental harmonisation of higher education in Africa was rooted in the early 1980s with the signing of the Arusha Convention by 19 countries and billed to take effect in 1983. The Convention was meant to contribute to UNESCO's initiative to promote international mobility and support the implementation of the charters of OAU, now African Union (AU), especially on regional cooperation and training of human resources,

implemented. He said that the process of higher education harmonisation in Africa was happening far more intensely at sub-continental than continental level.

Professor Rasheed said this could be exemplified with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Association of Arab Universities



Some International participants

among others.

The signatories, according to him, agreed to improve collaboration and sharing of resources and cooperate in curriculum development, promote lifelong learning and democratisation of education,

He stated that although ratified, the charter was never

(AArU), African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education Conseil Africain et Malgache pour L'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES). The NUC Scribe recounted that the most recent efforts in coordinated continental higher education harmonisation began with the adoption of the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015)



by AU Member States.

The document outlined principles



Prof. Peter Okebukola
President, GUNI and Workshop Facilitator

and goals that recognized the need and importance of harmonisation. One of the guiding principles was the concentration on strategic issues which implementation would make significant difference

of harmonisation of higher education in Africa, Professor Rasheed listed some of the barriers that had limited the implementation of the Arusha (now Addis) Convention to include: slow ratification of the Addis Convention by member states, divergent quality of higher education across the continent, disproportionate development of quality assurance agencies in the continent and language barrier.

He expressed optimism that there was a glimpse of hope based on the effort of the African Union, which was at the forefront of some quality assurance initiatives that promoted harmonisation.

Some of them include the Pan African Quality Assurance

Harmonisation of African Higher Education, Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) the most recent of the initiatives.

On ways to positively change the narrative of harmonisation of higher education in Africa, he recommended for member states to build bridges in order to improve collaboration and networking among African

countries which, he said, NUC had done by collaborating with CAMES, a regional quality assurance agency for 19 francophone countries thereby breaking language barrier.

Others included commitment to implementing the various harmonisation initiatives of the African Union HEIs taking quality assurance and continuous quality



Group photo of the participants and other dignitaries at the event

at member state and regional levels.

While analysing the challenges

Framework(PAQAF), Africa Quality Rating Mechanism (AQRM), Turning Africa and

improvement as matters of high priority.



Earlier in his welcome address, immediate past President of AfriQAN and Chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC), Professor Chiedu Mafiana reminded participants that the Conference would review recent progress made in implementing harmonisation initiatives in Africa and also discuss further prospects for continental harmonisation initiatives, particularly with respect to strategies required to sustain those initiatives.

Goodwill messages were delivered by the Secretary-General, Association of African Universities (AAU), Professor Etienne Ehile and the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU).

Other goodwill messages were delivered by delegates and representatives of participating countries of Ethiopia, Senegal, Gambia, Botswana, Rwanda, South Africa and Ghana.

There were also pre-Conference workshops and technical sessions facilitated by former Executive Secretary, NUC, Prof. Peter Okebukola, on Practical on Raising University Profile on Global Ranking Table as well as Stemming Academic Corruption to Improve Quality

in African Higher Education.

Other papers included Emerging Developments in Quality Assurance in Higher Education Around the World: Special



Dr. Noel B. Saliu
Rapporteur General

Focus on Revitalisation Agenda of Higher Education Systems in Africa; Exemplary Practices in Curriculum Review: Sharing Experiences from African University Systems, among others.

Highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the first GUNI-Africa and AfriQAN Award to Professor Rasheed by Chairman, ICQAHEA, Professor Juma Shabani. It also featured the 2019 Annual General Meeting of AfriQAN which was hosted by AAU.

The network served as an official

platform for cooperation of African quality assurance organisations and collaborates with similar organisations in other regions.

At the workshop were the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Arc. Sunny Echono; representative of President/ Coordinator, AfriQAN, Professor Jonathan Mba; Executive Secretary, ANAQ-SUP, Senegal, Professor Lamine Guey and members of the NUS. Some members of the University Development Committee of NUC Board also participated in the conference including, Professors Imran Smith and Anthony Okere; Alhaji Abdulsalam Moyosore and Hon. Donald Etiebet.

Also in attendance were the NUC Deputy Executive Secretary, Academics, Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf; Directors of Executive Secretary's Office, Mr. Chris Maiyaki; Academic Planning, Dr. Abiodun Saliu; Finance and Accounts, Mr. Sam Onazi; Accreditation, Dr. Maryam Sali; Skills Development and Entrepreneurship, Mrs. Constance Goddy-Nnadi and Human Resources, Mr. Boniface C. Odum.



NUC New Curriculum To Ensure Youth Empowerment

—Professor Rasheed

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Abubakar Rasheed, Mni, MFR, FNAL, has stated that over the years, the Commission had been adopting necessary innovations and programmes in the Nigerian System (NUS), aimed at empowering youths towards accelerating the growth and transformation of Nigeria.

Professor Rasheed made this known in a public service lecture titled: Youth Empowerment and Migration: The Imperative of Good Governance, Innovation and Effective Poverty Reduction Strategy, delivered at the recent 2019 Civil Service Week, held in Abuja.

The Executive Secretary, who was the guest lecturer, enumerated some of the youth empowerment programmes in the NUS to include: Presidential Special Scholarship for Innovation and Development (PRESSID) meant for first class graduates; Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN); Nigerian University System Open Educational Resources (NUSOER); Entrepreneurship programmes and World Bank-funded Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs) in selected universities.

Another notable innovation he said, was the Triple Helix, a

significant synergy among the government, academia and industry. He explained that in Nigeria, there was hardly any significant linkage between the academia and the industry

He emphasised that the synergy among the three organs should be mutual and self-reinforcing, highlighting that government must apply the right policy framework for education to train



Dr. (Mrs) Folashade Yemi-Esan
Acting HOCSE

sector, nor much contact between government and the academia.

In the complexity of interactions, the effectiveness of government and industry, especially in an increasingly knowledge-driven world, was determined by the academia.

Herein laid the supreme role of NUC which fed both the public and the private sectors with necessary manpower needs to enable them organise the nation's economic and social development.

the required work-force that would serve the industry in creating wealth which in return, would serve both the government and the education sector.

He stated that NUC was committed towards national development and the only way to make any meaningful progress was to 'think outside the box'. He pointed out that in order to accelerate growth and transformation in Nigeria, there was need to be creative in formulating new ideas and



applying any existing information or technique through policy continuation.



Prof. Abubakar A. Rasheed
Guest Speaker

Professor Rasheed also said that NUC had been playing the role of organising and supervising the education, training and production of human capital and skills required for maintenance of national institutions in furtherance of its development goals. He said the primary mandate of NUC was the development of tertiary education in Nigeria with the youths as its main targets even though education was a life-long process.

He stressed that an essential component of NUC's assignment was empowerment, the process through which young men and women were trained and inoculated with intellectual and technical capacity to handle the vicissitudes of life.

Speaking on migration trend among youths, he decried the harsh economic situation which

had affected people in one way or the other over the last three decades stemming from push-factors of increasing rate of poverty, violence and insecurity of lives and property, poor infrastructure, corruption and other vices, which in turn had led to search and move towards areas of comfort.

On the other hand, there was another group that see migration to foreign lands as a prestige due to attitudinal mentality that placed higher value on anything foreign and therefore, willing to do anything at all cost to migrate.

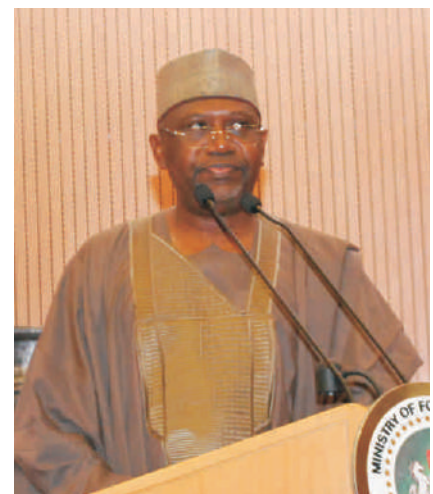
The NUC Scribe cited the report by Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO) which indicated a high number of Nigerians in the Diaspora and that the surge for emigration was predominantly among desperate youths ravaged by poverty, joblessness, underdevelopment and violence.



Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa
Chairman FCSC

He said that from the NIDO figures, Nigerians understandably made up the

highest proportion of Africans seeking to migrate to foreign lands. He added that more disturbing was the humiliation and suffering that Nigerian immigrants were exposed to. Not only that, but also disheartening was the incarceration and even execution of some of those in the Diaspora on charges of various crimes.



Alh. Abba Goni Aji
Chairman of the Occasion

Professor Rasheed further noted that, "Migrating at all cost often means doing so illegally, undocumented or with fake documents. The consequences when caught, can be horrific. Indeed, there have been stories of Nigerian youths molested, assaulted, tortured, raped, deported or even killed merely on allegations of illegal entry or possession of fake travelling documents."

He said that the overwhelming evidence was that poor governance had been partly responsible for the deterioration of the Nigerian situation. For





effective strategy to curb the trend, he proffered the need to examine those factors responsible for the increasing urge in youths for migration, find out the forces of attraction in the countries to which they want to migrate and endeavour to introduce such attractions back home as a way of stemming the urge to migrate.

The Executive Secretary recalled that successive governments had been mindful of the need to combat or alleviate poverty

to solve, it could be reasonably deduced that they did not attain the goals for which they were established, as youth unemployment continued to rise while poverty continued to be so visible.

He noted that as the conditions of the nation's youths deteriorate, many were compelled to offer themselves as political thugs or willing recruits for promoters of ethno-religious crises while others, especially the uneducated

commitment, mismanagement and corruption, among others.

He said that inconsistency of those programmes and consequent increase in poverty level had adverse effects on the society as evident from moral decadence.

On the correlation between governance and migration, he said that good governance entailed leadership that was committed to the well-being of the society, an



L-R: Dr. Ingawa, Prof. Rasheed, Ibrahim Usman Yakasai and Amb. Mustapha while Alh. Goni delivering his speech

through various national interventions especially youth empowerment programmes notably Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Open Apprenticeship Scheme, Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES), Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Youth Enterprise With Innovation in Nigeria (YOUWIN) and N-Power.

He, however, said that judging by the recalcitrance of the problems those programmes were intended

and unemployed, joined militant groups, kidnapping gangs or Boko Haram terrorists.

According to Professor Rasheed, previous policies and programmes were unsuccessful due to a number of reasons including, poor policy formulation and coordination; non-sustainability of the schemes; absence of effective collaboration among the three tiers of government; absence of agreed poverty reduction agenda by governments, donor agencies and other stakeholders; duplication of efforts among institutions and agencies; inadequate funding and lack of

efficient and competent visionary leadership that understood the collective aspirations of the people rather than personal goals. He further explained that good governance also meant strict adherence to rule of law, equity, justice and fairness in keeping with the ethos of modern democracy and also eschewing corruption, nepotism and ethnicity.

He further pointed out that why poor governance was responsible for the current plight of Nigerian youths was that successive governments squandered the huge



opportunities of the nation since independence. He observed that with the abundant natural and human resources, Nigeria had the capacity to transform the nation's economy the way the Asian Tigers did.

He submitted that so far, efforts by successive governments to change the situation had failed as previous intervention programmes had not been effective due to corruption, mismanagement and poor governance.

dedicated leaders, adding that it had since independence been assailed by corruption and poor governance, leading to the current situation in which the citizens were seeking refuge in droves in foreign lands.

While proffering the way forward, he posited that Nigerian economy should be diversified from oil, stating that previous efforts at development had not been very beneficial to the poor as the resources were not invested in non-oil sector

that the business community should patronise domestic inputs and give serious thoughts on the appropriate technology to adopt.

This, he said, required holistic and sustained strategy which must begin with identification and understanding of key areas of weakness which were main incubators of poverty.

He called for the need for governance and leadership to move in line with the global trends in Information and



Cross section of some Permanent Secretaries

He said that “We have the resources to develop her infrastructure, move from agrarian economy to an industrialised one. We had enough resources to improve the nation's agricultural production, provide quality education for all and at all levels, create jobs for the youths and improve the quality of all Nigerians”.

He said that Nigeria unfortunately lacked good governance and

which high percentage of Nigerians depended on for their livelihood.

He commended President Buhari's administration's policy and success in attaining self-sufficiency in rice production was a step in the right direction. He urged the private sector to open up channels capable of eradicating poverty through production, investment and employment generation, adding

Communication Technology (ICT), to avoid being submerged by the flood of poverty.

He said that in the present world, ICT had continued to add value to empowerment programmes and good governance in general, as it not only played critical role in the value chain of all economic activities, but also made the process of governance more effective, transparent and



accountable. He said that ICT world was beyond the use of specialists, computers and the internet, rather, a system that made individuals and groups integral part of vast but closely connected community.

Professor Rasheed expressed optimism that with the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, the situation would soon be rectified as the President was determined to fight corruption which had been the bane of Nigeria's

rebuilding critical infrastructure across the country for creation of additional jobs.

He stressed that government must continue to address the problems associated with interest rates, infrastructure, security and other challenges that tended to undermine the capacity for industrial production and growth. Both the private sector and government must facilitate youth employment through rural development to stem rural to

plan, which was designed to support the economic recovery programme of the government.

She listed some of the eight priority areas categorised into short and long-termed plans to include: redesigning and re-launch of the three core training modules, institutionalising performance management, innovation in service and launch of salary review in civil service, among others.

She mentioned another area where



L-R: Mr. Olunike, Prof. Rasheed, Dr. Magdalene; Alh, Goni, Dr. Ingawa, Mrs. Mede, Alh. Sabiu, Amb. Mustapha and Mr. Henry

development. He added that already, the situation was changing and government institutions were beginning to adjust to the President's resolve. He summed that there was need for comprehensive harmonised poverty alleviation strategy as against previous programmes that there were operated in isolation from one another. Above all was the urgent need to overhaul educational policies and programmes as well as sustaining the tempo of the ongoing massive investments in building or

urban migration.

The Executive Secretary commended the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation for its continued guidance and support to NUC in performing its functions.

In her speech, the Acting Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan recalled that in July the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the Federal Civil Service 2017-2019 Strategies and implementation

progress had been recorded to be the ongoing development of the framework of external panel need specialised skills, aimed towards helping critical areas of deficiency in the service. she added that plans were underway to develop a performance management system policy and guidelines for the Federal public service meant to replace the subjective and open system of Annual Performance Evaluation Report (APER), where targets were set for individual civil servants and served as a tool for rewarding



performance.

The Chair of the occasion and Former Head of Service, Alhaji Bukar Goni Aji, OON, said that the civil service week was instituted as part of strategies to update civil servants on the critical assignment of interpreting government policies and ensure

that they internalised them in order to effectively discharge their functions.

Also at the event were the Permanent Secretaries of, Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mustapha Muhammad Suleiman; OHCSF, Dr. Magdaline N. Ajani and

Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa.

The Executive Secretary, NUC, was accompanied by the Directors of Public Affairs, Ibrahim Usman Yakasai and the Executive Secretary's Office, Mr. Chris Maiyaki.

Rasheed Inducted Grand Patron NUC Cooperative Society

The President of the National Universities Commission's Cooperative Society, Mrs. Margaret Oyedele, led other Executive members on a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, MFR, FNAL, to request him to join the NUC's Staff Cooperative Society Limited and by extension, was appointed the Grand Patron of the Society.

Mrs. Oyedele expressed appreciation to Prof. Rasheed for his guidance and counselling to the Cooperative Management team during the maiden meeting with him which the Society treasured and regarded as timely.

The President of the society

solicited continued support from Prof. Rasheed to address the society's challenges.

mart, where members could shop. She decried that the space provided in the Directorate of



President, NUC Cooperative Society Mrs. Margaret Oyedele presenting a plaque to the Executive Secretary, NUC Prof. Abubakar Rasheed

She also used the opportunity to request that the Society needed a dedicated office for the day-to-day running of the society and to enable the society have a mini-

Finance and Accounts was not convenient and could hardly project the Society to willing partners.



In his response, Professor Rasheed thanked the Society for honouring him and apologized for not being available for earlier meetings scheduled with him due to official engagements.

Professor Rasheed advised the Cooperative management to ensure that members were privy to

The Executive Secretary expressed his willingness to approve the allocation of an office space for the society if any was available.

He further challenged the team that it should have requested for an allocation within the Commission Secretariat to

During the Congress meeting which was held last week Prof. Rasheed assured members that he would encouraged Management Staff who were not members to join the Society.

At the meeting, members were updated with the current financial status of the Society.



Prof. Rasheed with (5th left) NUC Cooperative Management Team

their actual savings and indebtedness to the Society. He also directed the Management team to give him a brief of the Cooperative's challenges in order to know the areas to assist the Society.

enable the Society erect a building of its own. He also enjoined the management team to ensure that Congress meetings hold at least twice in a year to keep members abreast of the developments in the Society.

In attendance were Directors; Finance and Accounts, Mr. Sam Onazi, and Academic Planning, Dr. Noel Saliu, who serve as special Advisers to the Society as well as Director, Human Resources, Mr. Boniface C. Odum.



NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS

COMMUNIQUE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS (NAL) CONVOCATION AND INVESTITURE OF NEW FELLOWS, AND SCIENTIFIC SESSION HELD AT THE J.F. ADE.AJAYI AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS ON THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2019

PREAMBLE

The Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), an autonomous, non-political body of scholars in the humanities, held its 21st Convocation and Investiture of New Fellows, and Scientific Session on Thursday, 8th August, 2019, at the J.F. Ade Ajayi Auditorium, University of Lagos. The theme of the Convocation was "Religion and Morality in a Secular State".

In attendance were 121 professors from different Nigerian and overseas universities. The President of the Nigerian Academy of Letters Professor Francis Egbokhare, FNAL, presided over the Convocation and investiture of New Fellows and the Vice President, Professor Duro Oni, FNAL presided over the Scientific Session. Thirty-six new members were inducted six new Regular Fellows (Professors Ademola O. Dasylva, Abdulkrasheed Na'Allah, Sunday Enessi, Ifeorna Mabel Onyemelukwe, Albert 'Lekan Oyeleye, and Jim Unah) and two Honorary Fellows Yemi Ogunbiyi, and Mr Olusegun Adeniyi) were admitted into the NAL College of Fellows. Other key dignitaries in attendance were Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, newly reappointed Minister of Transportation; Prof Rasheed Abubakar, FNAL, the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC); Prof. Is'haq Oloyede, FNAL, Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board and Professor Obiajulu Emejulu, Executive Director of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN). The vice chancellors included Prof. Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos; Prof. AbdulRasheed Na'Allah, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja; Professor Eyitope Ogungbenro Ogunbodede, the Vice Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; Professor Andrew Haruna, the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University, Gashua and Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele, the Vice Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru University, Port Harcourt.

The Convocation Lecture titled, "Morality and the state". The Nigerian Experience, was delivered by Professor Emeritus Godwin Sogolo, FNAL. Two well researched papers on the Convocation theme were also presented at the Scientific Session by Professor Akin Alao of the Department of History, of the department of History and Professor Umar H.D. Danfulani of the Department of Religious Studies, University of Jos. In the course of this presentation, pertinent issues that need the attention of government and the general public were discussed. These formed the basis of the following observations and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS

At the end of the engaging Convocation Lecture and the stimulating Scientific Session, the following were observed:

1. The Nigerian state seems to pay scant attention to the education of youth on the ethos and the realities of cultural diversity;
2. There is a rapidly growing culture of moral apathy, especially among the Nigerian youth, due to failure of governance at all levels;
3. Poor attention is given to moral education in the national socialisation processes and, this has created



- strained relationships and avoidable social distance between the state and the people;
4. The Nigerian Constitution (Section 15(2)) upholds the idea of a secular state but the document equally contains provisions that undermine this secular character;
 5. The current absence of a distinction between the state and religion in Nigeria was partly created by the British colonial policies which made religion and ethnicity coterminous;
 6. There is the systemic collapse of merit on the altar of religious bigotry and ethnicity, which promotes corruption and insecurity across the nation; and
 7. The clear absence of a national philosophy is largely responsible for the palpable moral decay and cultural disorientation of our youth.
 8. The running of university education in Nigeria has become so complex and difficult because of paucity of funding. Federal Government still pays lip service to funding of education, and it is most unfortunate; and
 9. In recent times, politicians without requisite knowledge of the university system are appointed as Pro-Chancellors. This trend can hardly add value to the running of the University system in Nigeria. .

RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above observations, the following recommendations were: made in the course of the Convocation Lecture, the Scientific Session and the ensuing discussions:

1. There is an urgent need for a humanising education that could socialise our youth into Nigerian ethos and diverse cultural values; "
2. Government should put in place policies that would guarantee the preservation of our religious diversity, as well as recover and propagate our waning cultural values, through curriculum review and proper reorientation on core national values;
3. The social distance between the people and the state can OIlly be bridged by a radical value reorientation that is championed by the humanities;
4. There is the need to review relevant sections of the Nigerian Constitution that contradict the secular state status and effectively separate religion from the state;
5. Deliberate efforts should be made to ensure a return to the traditional culture of reward for exemplary acts and punishment of'erring conducts;
6. Adherence to merit and professional ethics will significantly ensure that the funds entrusted to public servants are properly utilised for the benefit and common good of all citizens;
7. Government should expedite actions on evolving the needed national philosophy which would provide the framework for sustainable quality control and, peer review of professional ethics and conduct;
8. To fund university education in Nigeria, Federal Government should increase its, budgetary allocation to the education sector to 25% and progressively increase this annually to 40% within three years. The leaderships of universities are also encouraged to be innovative and creative in sourcing for additional alternative and sustainable revenue streams to enable them survive, thrive and compete well internationally; and
9. For effective university administration, Visitors to all universities in Nigeria should give priority to appointing experienced and knowledgeable people in university administration and similar institutions as Pro-Chancellors.

Professor Francis Egbokhare, FNAL
President, Nigeria Academy of Letters (NAL)





PRESS RELEASE

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 UNESCO KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA PRIZE FOR THE USE OF ICT IN EDUCATION

The UNESCO invites nominations from Nigeria for the King Hamed Bin Isa Al-Khalite prize for the use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

This is to recognize approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goal 4 on Education.

The theme of the 2019 Prize is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to innovate Education, learning and teaching.

Nominations should be forwarded to natcom.unesco@education.gov.ng on or before 23rd October, 2019. Receipt of nominations will close by 31st October, 2019 (midnight Paris time)

For more information visit <http://www.unesco.org/ict-ed-prize/register>.

Announcer-

Arc Sonny Echono
Permanent Secretary

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR) **SHAKE UP IN EDUCATION MINISTRY**

Education Minister, Adamu Adamu has approved the redeployment of eleven (11) Directors and Principals of Federal Unity Colleges in an exercise, the Minister said is designed to strengthen service delivery and also fill existing vacancies in the education sector.

Top on the list of Directors redeployed are Abdulkadir Binta (Mrs.), Principal, Federal Government College (FGC) Kwali, who is now the Director, Basic and Secondary Education Department in the Ministry.

Binta will take over from Dr. Lami Amodu, the current Director of Basic and Secondary Education, who will retire from service on the 14th of October, 2019.

The current Principal of Federal Science and Technical College (FSTC) Yaba, Dr. Ufoegbune Ogochukwu (Mrs.) has

now been moved to the Ministry's headquarters to fill the vacancy of Director, Federal Education Quality Assurance Services (FEQAS), while Mr. Omada David Idakwoji of the Federal Science and Technical College, Uromi, takes over from Dr. Ufoegbune Ogochukwu of the Federal Science and Technical College, Yaba, as Principal.

Similarly, Dr. Mrs. Yakubu Oyinloye of Queens' College, Lagos, is to take over from Akamo Esther (Mrs.) as Principal, Federal Government Girls' College, Shagamu, while Dr. (Mrs.) Essien Funmi of the Federal Government College, Ijanikin, is to take over from Dr. (Mrs.) Yakubu Oyinloye as Principal, Queens' College, Lagos.

Akamo.O. Esther (Mrs.) of Federal Government Girls' College (FGGC), Shagamu is to succeed Dr. (Mrs.) Essien Funmi as Principal, Federal Government College, Ijanikin, while Abdullahi Asmau Yakubu (Mrs.) of the Ministry's Tertiary Education Department is to replace Mr. Manko Kudu (who will be retiring from service on the 6th of September, 2019) as Principal, Federal Government Academy, Suleja.

Mrs. Stella Maris Ufuoma Omu, current Principal of Federal Government Girls College, Bwari (who will be retiring from service on the 10th of November, 2019) will be succeeded by Sodangi Jumai Binta (Mrs.) of Federal Government Girls College, Abaji.

Also, Offonkasi Ifeoma Scholastica (Mrs.), current Vice Principal, FGBC, Apo, is to replace Sodangi Jumai Binta (Mrs.) as Principal, Federal Government Girls' College, Abaji.

Mr. Shehu Dahiru of Federal Science and Technical College, Kafanchan, is to replace Abdulkadir Binta (Mrs.) as Principal, Federal Government College, Kwali.

Finally, Mrs. Oguah Florence of National Commission for United Nation Scientific and Cultural Organization (NATCOM-UNESCO) is now the Secretary General, NATCOM-UNESCO.

Handing over formalities are to be completed by Monday, 9th September, 2019, except where otherwise directed.

Ben Bem Goong
Deputy Director (Press & PR)



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION***Office of the Director, Education Support Services*8th Floor, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 3, Shehu Shagari Way, Garki AbujaE-mail: fmeess2014@yahoo.com

FME/S/833/181

6th August, 2019

The Executive Secretary,
National Universities Commission (NUC),
Maitama, Abuja

RE: TRANSMISSION OF LETTER OF REQUEST

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Middle East and Gulf Division sent a request received from the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Abuja requesting for Institutions in the field of water management, preservation of wetlands and educational centres to visit the areas of marshes in Southern Iraq for the purpose of tourism, educating the local population and creating awareness on the importance of cultural, economic and environmental assets to the advantage of the Iraqi citizens.

2. The Ministry is kindly requesting that the information (as attached) be disseminated to Universities for further necessary actions.
3. Please, accept the best regards of the Permanent Secretary.

Dr. (Mrs) L. I. Giginna
Director, Education Support Services
For: Permanent Secretary



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY DUTSE***Senate Building, Ibrahim Aliyu Bypass PMB 7156, Dutse Jigawa State**GSM: 0808 140 3377 email: mukhtarfb@yahoo.co.uk**(Office of the Vice-Chancellor)***VICE-CHANCELLOR****Professor F. B. Mukhtar** *B.Sc, Botany (ABU) M.Sc, Ph.D Botany (BUK), f.inst.AM***The Director, Corporate Communications****August 9, 2019**

National Universities Commission,

4th Floor, Aja-Nwachukwu House,

26, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,

Maitama District, Abuja

Dear Sir,

**Notification of Federal University Dutse's membership of United
Nation's Academic Impact (UNAI)**

I am directed by the Vice- chancellor Federal University Dutse, Professor Fatima Batul Mukhtar to notify you of the recent admission of the University as a member of the prestigious United Nation Academic Impact (UNAI).

UNAI is a programme of the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

As an initiative mandated by the UN General Assembly, (UNGA), UNAI aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing through research and education, to the realization of the Organization's goals and mandates.

By the latest global recognition, FUD has joined over 1300 academic and research institutions in more than 300 countries across the globe that have memberships of the group.

Please find attached a copy of the membership certificate.

Accept the highest esteem assurances of the Vice –Chancellor.

Mohammed Abubakar
Head, Media & Public Relations

