

NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Internal memorandum

To: **Members of Senate**

From: **Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of Senate**

Ref. No: **NAU/VC/23/Vol. XIV/**

Date: **October 25, 2022**

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO THE 215TH MEETING OF SENATE, SENATE CHAMBER, 26TH OCTOBER, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to welcome us all back to the University and the attendant academic studies after eight (8) tortuous months of strike by our Union, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). I recognize that the turn of events is not what had been hoped for and that this may dampen the enthusiasm at work, but I counsel that we do not despair for the end may turn out not to be as unfavourable as many may fear. I, therefore, urge you, as Deans and Heads of Departments, to rally round your staff and encourage them to resume teaching fully. The students should not become the proverbial grass that bears the brunt of two elephants fighting.

During the strike, some non-teaching developments, with positive augury for teaching and research had taken place in the University. These developments are outlined in the sections that follow.

2. CONVOCATION CEREMONIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

The 15th and 16th Convocation Ceremonies of the University, with the tacit understanding of the local leadership of ASUU, had taken place from Monday 14th to Friday 18th March 2022 as had been scheduled before the onset of the strike. As approved by Senate and Council, honorary doctorate degrees were conferred on three distinguished Nigerians: Alhaji Aliko Dangote, *GCON*, Chairman and CEO of Dangote Group; Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim bank); and Chief Arc. Donald A. Nwandu, *Oba Enugwu-Ukwu na Umunri II*. Though not present at the event, Alhaji Dangote sent in his apologies citing an indisposition and through his representative made a pledge to construct two fully furnished students' hostel. Prof. Oramah pledged to fund the construction of the much awaited Igbo Village. It will be recalled that the Nwandu family had constructed and furnished the Architecture Research Building.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SOME STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY INTO THE ANAMBRA STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES

The University has continued to serve as a human resource pool for appointments into the Anambra State Executive Council, various agencies of the State Government as well as some non-state organizations. In the state Executive Council, Prof. Offonze Amucheazi is the commissioner for Lands and Prof. Sylvia Ifemeje, Attorney-General and commissioner for Justice; both from the Faculty of Law. Others appointed into various agencies of Government includes: Prof. Nkechi Ikediugwu as Chairperson Anambra State Post-Primary School Service Commission; Prof. Au Nnonyelu as member, Anambra State Education Advisory Council. Outside Anambra State agencies Prof. Emmanuel Umezina of the Department of Music and Special Adviser to the Vice-Chancellor (Academic) has been appointed the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the new Peter University, Achina, while Prof. Au Nnonyelu has been appointed as the pioneer Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of the University. Rev. M.O. Nwakanma of the Department of Religion and Human Relations has been consecrated Methodist Bishop of Awka. Others are: Prof. I.C. Uzochukwu nominated and screened for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner; Prof. Obi Oguejifor, Vice-Chancellor Olivia University Bujumbura, Burundi; Dr. Naomi Samuel, as member Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board and Dr. Nelson Omenugha, Special Adviser to the Anambra State Governor on Youth Empowerment Programme. These appointments reflected the confidence reposed on Nnamdi Azikiwe University to, at all times provide competent personnel in all sectors of humendeavour, consequent on the creditable performances of those appointed to date.

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4. FLAG-OFF OF THE NIGERIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION (NCF)-NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY PLANTATION

The flag-off of the Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF) and Nnamdi Azikiwe University Plantation was on Wednesday 19th October, attended by functionaries of the state government and the officials of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. In the post flag-off round-table discussion that followed, an MoU was signed with NCF which provided for the Foundation to assist in the maintenance of economic tree plantation and the forest and natural resource reserves in the University. It also provided for collaboration/staff exchange between the University and the Foundation. Related to these developments, the University has taken delivery of one thousand (1,000) coconut seedlings from the Anambra State Ministry of Agriculture. These would be cultivated in plantations at the Awka campus and the Okofia and Neni premises of the University.

5. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP FOR AFRICA (ARIFA) - TETFUND PROJECT

This project under the ambit of the University's Centre of Excellence for Engineering, Biosciences and Agriculture Translational Studies is funded by TETFund. Under this project, an agriculture innovation platform has been articulated providing for staff of the University undergoing post—graduate training to be sent to Brazil, basically to undergo training in value-chain exploration and expansion of agriculture produce. On return they would, under the auspices of the Centre for Engineering, Biosciences and Agriculture Translation Studies provide the fulcrum for dissemination to the wider society.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- i) **Construction of Solar and High Energy Cosmic Ray Laboratory**
Senator (Mrs.) Uche Ekwunife, *Iyom, Adaugo-Igbo, Anyanwu Nri*, senator representing Anambra Central Senatorial District has attracted to the University a solar and high energy cosmic ray laboratory under the auspices of the National Space Research and Development Agency of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, with the contract already awarded by the Agency.
- ii) **Completion of Science Village Road**
Through the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor, the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has done the second phase of the Science Village road, thus completing the road project.
- iii) **Nnamdi Azikiwe University Institute of Maritime Studies, Onitsha**
Hon. Lynda Chuba Ikpeazu has attracted to the University, an Institute of Maritime Studies located at Onitsha. Work has already started on the project.
- iv) **ZIK Lectures/Legislative Studies Building**
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Senate may recall that Senator Ndi Obi, *CON, Ojeligbo*, the benefactor of the Zik Lecture Series had in the past pledged the construction of a Legislative Studies Building in the University as a furtherance of his zeal to enhance the capacity for good governance in the country. Through his intermediation, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is now constructing a Zik Lectures/Legislative Studies Building.
- v) **Chisco Institute of Transportation Studies**
The benefactor of Chisco Institute of Transportation Studies, Chief (Dr) Chidi Anyaegbu, *MFR, CON*, has donated the sum of one hundred million Naira only (₦100m) to the University to set up a Technical, Vocational Education Training Centre at the Institute.

vi) Renovation of The Old Final Year Medical Students' Hostel at NAUTH And Furnishing of The College Library

A few alumni of University's Faculty of Medicine are undertaking the renovation of the above stated students' hostel as well as the furnishing of the College Library to meet NUC standard in readiness for NUC re-accreditation visit.

vii) Construction of One Storey Office Block in the College of Health Sciences Akamili Premises

The Chief Executive Officer of Kotec Group, Chief Chika Emenike is building a twenty-room one storey Office Block with a Boardroom for the College of Health Sciences at the Akamili permanent site of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital. The project is presently at the substructure level.

viii) The Federal Government has commenced the following new capital projects in the University:

- a. Faculty of Medicine Staff Office and Classroom Building at the Akamili site of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital.
- b. Construction of Office Space, Classrooms and Work Spaces for the Department of Music and Department of Theatre and Film Studies.

ix) Construction of Zoological Park has commenced.

7. NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

UNIZIK Business School has attracted the following projects:

- i) A pledge of five hundred million Naira (₦500m) from Dr. A.B.C. Orjiakor.
- ii) A partnership with the Onitsha Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture on short term projects, including the teaching of French and Chinese languages.
- iii) Afrihub-UNIZIK Edutech partnership with foreign Universities on undergraduate, postgraduate and short-term programmes
- iv) One hundred thousand pounds (£100,000) grant by the higher Education partnership in sub-saharan Africa 22/24 programme established by the Royal Academy of Engineering. This was attracted by Dr. Chinedu Onyeizugbe, Deputy Director, UNIZIK Business School and Engr. Ugochukwu Ifediora, an MBA student of the School.
- v) Collaboration with the Centre for Regional and International Development (CRID), an International Institute based in Canada and the United Kingdom. This is for short-term programmes.

- vi) A fifteen million Naira (₦15m) research grant on Invigorating Igbo Entrepreneurial Behaviour through Enhanced Apprenticeship Scheme in Onitsha markets. This was attracted by Prof. Au Nnonyelu, Prof. Ezimma Nnabuife, Dr. Chinedu Onyeizugbe, Dr. Rosemary Anazodo and Dr. Blessing Onyima. This is being sponsored by Obiora Okonkwo, Founder and Chairman of Pro-value Humanity Foundation.
- vii) Registration of UNIZIK Business School with international bodies: Association of African Business Schools (AABS); and Business Graduates Association, and Business Education Alliance (AACSB)

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8. CERTIFICATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES INFECTIOUS DISEASES LABORATORIES AT AWKA AND NNEWI CAMPUSES BY THE NIGERIAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (NCDC)

The University's Infectious Diseases Laboratories at the Awka and Nnewi campuses have received final certification from the Nigeria Centre for Disease control. With this, these laboratories have become operational.

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9. RANKING OF UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA BY *TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKING*

The latest release of Universities ranking in Nigeria by the *Times Higher Education Ranking* has placed Nnamdi Azikiwe University in the tenth (10th) position. With this development, our target of piloting Nnamdi Azikiwe University to be ranked as the best University in Nigeria is nearing realization.

10. LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The University's learning management system will soon be launched.

11. EXPANSION OF INTERNET BANDWIDTH

The University's internet bandwidth has been increased from 3STMI to 5STMI; thus making for easier accessibility.

12. HONOURS WON

The University female football team won the bronze medal in the last NU games. The team represented Nigeria in the All Africa University Games Kenya; the first time the University would be participating in this level of international competition.

13. NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC) ACCREDITATION REPORT

The result of the last NUC accreditation visits is outlined below:

Number of programmes presented: 47

Full Accreditation: 35

Interim: 6

14. 2023 SCIENTISTS IN TOP 10,000 (AS PUBLISHED BY STATISENSE) NUMBER BY UNIVERSITY

1. Nnamdi Azikiwe University: 405
2. Covenant University: 392
3. University of Nigeria: 369
4. University of Ilorin: 314
5. Bayero University: 304
6. University of Ibadan: 285
7. University of Lagos: 270
8. FUTA: 260
9. Obafemi Awolowo University: 258
10. FUT Minna: 255

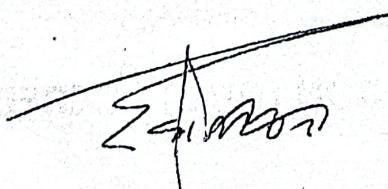
15. THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023 BY SUBJECT (SOURCE *TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION*)

Arts and Humanity:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University Not Ranked
Business and Economics:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Clinical and Health:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University ranked 801+
Computer Science:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Education:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Engineering:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Law:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Life Sciences:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Physical Sciences:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked
Social Sciences:	Nnamdi Azikiwe University not ranked.

16. CONCLUSION

Let me conclude by once again urging us all to put the agony of the past strike behind us and resume academic activities fully.

Thank you.



Prof. Charles O. Esimone, FAS, FPSN
Vice-Chancellor