



MOU AU

bulletin

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**WE HAVE NOT HAD ACCREDITATION
SO GOOD IN SEVERAL YEARS**

Prof. Madu Iwe



When The Ship Is Good, The
Money Must Be Good



Return To Ministry Of Agriculture,
Secret Homecoming For
MOU AU And Sixers



Agric Engineers Continue In
MOU AU



Christians In Moses Charged
To Maintain Secure Home

INSIDE THIS EDITION

When The Soup Is Good, The Money Must Be Good



Exclusive Interview with Adewale Odofin

There is a saying in local pidgin lingo that 'soup wey sweet, na money kill am'. I couldn't help noticing how apt this saying is as I sat down for a one on one interview with MOU AU's own renown professor of Food Science & Technology, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe. Professor Iwe is also the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic here at MOU AU. As we chatted about the multiple accreditation exercises this year, I marvelled at big leap the University took in strengthening her academic muscle, justifying the investment made by the management.

Speaking on how important accreditation is to any University, Iwe says, "in Nigeria, at the University level, it is conducted by the Tertiary Universities Commission which is more or less the quality control of University academic programmes. They come periodically; this actually happens once in five years, for any program that has full accreditation at any time, but less than that for intending programmes and any programme that has interim accreditation should be re-presented between one or two years, depending on the readiness of the programme. Normally, accreditation is for mature programmes. It is not every programme that is ready for accreditation. After one year of mounting a programme, the programme will be first verified by the NUC after one or two years of the programme, it should be mature for accreditation, and accreditation should be done before a programme begins to produce graduates, that is what accreditation is all about".

"Furthermore, accreditation is normally based on what we call minimum standard in Nigeria. There are basic minimum standards which are established as regulatory standards for

various programmes for Nigerian Universities. Once in awhile, professionals in that field are selected from various parts of the country by NUC and they are asked to go and see whether a particular program is meeting up to the standard and if it is not meeting up, it could be denied accreditation or if it is trying in keeping up to the standard but not very well then it could be given interim accreditation, but where the programme meets all the standard expected then it is given full accreditation".

Bringing the accreditation conversation home to MOU AU, I asked Prof. Iwe why this year's accreditation was generating such a buzz. What is different?

"The present administration believes in quality of lives and programmes, so on entry, Prof. F. O. Otunta saw the need to make sure that all hanging programmes were presented for accreditation. There were a lot of programmes that were hanging and up till now, some have not been verified because of the way they were handled, and we believe that the best thing to do in this circumstance is to do the right thing and the right thing is to present every program the way it is, whether it is doing well or not, so that everybody will know. Based on that a lot of funds were committed into ensuring that programmes were doing well, because this is a science based University and it requires laboratories, state of the art equipment, and of course good teaching staff and professors".

Explaining further, Iwe maintains that, "there is what we call staff mix, there



is also what we call students ratio and staff mix. If you keep admitting students without checking the effect of the volume of the admission on the standard of the programme, then there will be problems and that is why we are having some problems. You will see in the past, there were departments that had four to six professors, yet they were having problem of accreditation. That means that there is a vacuum in the staff mix. There are established ratios for what we call the bottom style of staffing (assistant lecturer to lecturer I), the middle staffing (senior lecturers) and the top staffing, (professors). There are ratios and once the ratios are not

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met, the programme will have a problem. Even though you have good staffing, once they are skewed in the ratio of the bottom, the middle and the top there will be problems. That is part of the problem we have before and that is why on entry, Professor Otunta made sure our students intake is not unnecessarily exceeded. We take students as much as the ratio will

allow, because we are expected to have a lecturer teaching 15 students. Now, if you have more than that, it becomes a problem during accreditation and if you have zero lecturer teaching 15 students, then there is a problem and if you have 5 lecturers teaching 15 students, that is also a problem, so we have to start from the onset to be mindful of this. Between March and November when the Vice-Chancellor took over for last year's accreditation, there were a few problems but we were able to manage the problems. At the end, out of about 14 programmes that were presented, only one failed accreditation. So we had an excellent result. In June, this year, we presented quite a number of programmes for accreditation, one cannot beginning to count all the departments but at the end, we had another outstanding result. About 19 programmes were presented again and only one failed”.

“It is just a matter of trying to do the right thing and providing the necessary fund. The University spent almost all it got from her internally generated fund between March last year and June this year on improving the standard of programmes; the University spent N231,000,000.00 to get equipment, to recruit needed staff, that is needed staff not just any staff and of course to make sure that the environment was acceptable to the accreditors”.

After talking so much about academics, I was ready to get to

know the DVC (Acad) on a more personal level. So I asked him what he did when he wasn't chasing down everyone to improve the academic standards of MOUAAU.

“I do things that are necessary; I practice my religion. I use my little free time to serve God and that's the major area I put time into. I am also involved in community service, right from my village, people come to me for one advice or the other. I make myself available to my village men (kinsmen) and give them advice while I encourage the young people to get along well with life. I also spend some time with my wife and children to make sure everybody is comfortable”.

Admiring the tall and fit frame of Prof. Iwe, I asked him to reveal his secret and share with us how he keeps so trim.

Chuckling with a little unseen blush he replies, “ when I have the time, I use it to exercise myself, indoors exercise. I like trekking or walking when I have the time. I think positively to keep my mind as clean as I can and I also digest the word of God and trust that God can do all things for me”.



RETURN TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, SWEET HOMECOMING FOR MOU AU AND SISTERS

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and her sister specialized Universities of Agriculture, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State, Federal University of Agriculture Markurdi, Benue State respectively have been called back to their 'mother' ministry, Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Henceforth, the three Universities would be overseen and managed by the Agriculture Ministry.

This news was broken to the MOU AU community by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Francis Otunta during the recent family meeting where members of staff contributed extensively to the nagging problem of shortfalls in salaries. Seeking to provide answers within the radius of transparency, the VC requested the Bursar to read out the budget and income received from Federal government salary payment from 2016 till date. The report explained how the shortfalls began to occur, arming staff with information that they were hitherto not privy to.

The Bursar Mr. Kalu Okorie, in his delivered report explained why staff salaries were still in shortfall despite the suspension of irregularly appointed staff, blaming it on the University's paucity of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). The Vice Chancellor thereafter called for ideas to boost IGR. The University community rose to the occasion, volunteering several robust suggestions for IGR.

Thanking those that contributed ideas and those that asked questions, the Vice Chancellor, offered an explanation for the suspension of 130 staff while he was away. He said the Governing Council had examined reports of irregularities in the suspension



From left, VC addressing the MOU AU family, Bursar, Director and Registrar

of some staff and discovered that some people had been overlooked for unclear reasons. They decided in the interest of equity to suspend the affected staff pending further investigation and interviews.

Prof. Francis Otunta ended the meeting by soliciting the understanding of the Unions and advocating for all hands to be on deck in solving the University's financial problems.



So engrossed staff section



The President, NASE Executives and LOC members

Agricultural Engineers have joined their voices to the endless call for Nigeria to diversify her economy through agriculture. In a courtesy visit by a delegation of Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers (NIAE), to the Vice Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Francis Otunta, the head of delegation and Vice Chairman of the institution, Engr. J.O. Olayoye made the call and also expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his generosity and support.

Engr. Olayoye described their visit

which is part of the Institution's 38th Annual General Meeting and 18th International Conference hosted by MOUAAU as a happy one because of the theme of the gathering – ‘*Dynamics of Agricultural Engineering For Food and Agro-Industrial Raw Materials Production for Economic Recovery in Nigeria*’. In his response, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Otunta applauded the Institution for her determination and purpose, urging them to open up their brain for the young ones to tap from which will contribute to the University's interest in making Nigeria a

country free of hunger through Agriculture.

At the opening ceremony, the President, of Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engr. Otis Anyaeji, FNSE, emphasized the need to encourage the use of mechanized tools in farming in order to enhance Agric productions. He also encouraged reforming engineering departments through information and repositioning towards development and technology. He charged NIAE to be at its best in terms of practice and strive to get to the next level of operational practices and



encourage large scale commercial practice of Agriculture by more people. Buttressing his point, Engr. Otis who was also the Chairman of the opening ceremony emphasized that Agriculture without Engineering is like a vehicle without wheels or Engine.

The Governor of Abia State, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu represented by the Permanent Secretary to Ministry of Agriculture Barr. Mrs. Ikonne, applauded the NIAE for their great initiative and vision emanating from the theme of the annual conference. Describing the occasion as very beneficial to the State, he urged them to extend the communiqué to the state government for more knowledge in the practice of Agriculture,

The key note address presented by Prof. Umezurike Linus Opara from University of Stellenbosch, South Africa on 'The Role of Agro-Industrialization in Nigeria's Economic Recovery, An Agricultural Engineering Perspective' centered on the challenging economy in Nigeria, caused by the dependence on oil export revenue which external influences have caused to experience a decline in prices, triggering a recession. The shrinking 'national cake', he said, spurred the urgent call for 'Green Alternative' to economic recovery

through the transformation of Agriculture as a new engine for growth and prosperity. The Local Organizing Committee Chairman, Prof. V.I.O. Ndirika FNIAE in his closing remarks, expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his unalloyed support towards the programme in all ramifications; and encouraged all Agric Engineers to never relent in their zeal towards making Nigeria a hunger free nation.

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This richness he opined would create opportunities for comprehensive discussion on specific fields of interest and development of ideas for innovations.
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Finally, he expressed his confidence in the caliber of keynote and lead paper speakers which he said gives an assurance that the outcome of the conference would be enriched by the presentations from these experts. This richness he opined would create opportunities for



The lead paper presenter and a fellow awardee Prof. Umezurike Linus Opara



The President and chairman of the occasion, Engr. Oti Anyeji

comprehensive discussion on specific fields of interest and development of ideas for innovations.

The event was wrapped up on a celebratory note with the induction as Fellows of the keynote speaker, Prof. Umezurike Linus Opara, Stellenbosch University South Africa and Prof. Michael Ngadi of



Executive members of NEAE pose with the management team after their courtesy visit



'PHOTO SPEAK'



The DVC Acad, Prof Iwo and the 2017 RuSAN congress participants



The management team and executive members of the RuSAN and the lead paper presenter, Rt. Hon. Eneke Ibadaka



Cross section of RuSAN Participants during their congress



Hon. Eneke receiving an Award as Patriotic RuSAN member



The director of CMSE presenting an address during the biotechnology awareness week



Prof. Ita Nwachuku addressing the gathering during the event



Journal presentation of the event



DVC Acad, and the Participants after the Biotechnology awareness week and capacity building workshop



The Hon. member representing Unueho's north and south, Hon. Onwilio in a work meet with other house members on duty



The VC, Prof. Francis leading the chairman of the house committee on tertiary Education Hon. comd. Aminu Saleman and his crew during their official assignment in the University



The MD of F.M.C Unueho Dr. Oluwa Abasi Chuku during their meeting



MOUAV and F.M.C management team after the roofing



Rt. Hon. Eneke Ibadaka

CHRISTIANS IN MOU AU CHARGED TO MAINTAIN SINCERE HEARTS



The minister, Pastor Mrs E. Ikeorga interceding for MOU AU.



A section of Staff in the Praise mood.



From the RT wife of the VC, Mrs. Bertha Otuanta in a worship mood beside the Husband.

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Christians in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike have been charged to approach God with sincere hearts and righteousness, rather than with double faces. The admonition was given by Pastor E. Ikeorga, at the October edition of the University's monthly prayer meeting tagged 'MOU AU Prays', held at Senator Anyim Pius Anyim Auditorium.

The woman of the cloth who buttressed her point with the Bible verses, Hosea 6: 1-3 and James 5: 13 - 20, charged the University Management to leave no stones unturned in restoring the

system. She noted with regret that the University was a far cry from the inscription 'God's own University' usually ascribed to it. She however prayed that God

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Otuanta urged University staff to show good example by embracing rather than resisting change. Adding that change would lead to posterity.
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would totally heal the system and accept it back as His own. Speaking shortly after the prayers,

the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Francis Otuanta, thanked members of staff for the cooperation they gave the DVC Admin while Acting as the Vice-Chancellor in his absence. He also assured the University community that the inscription 'God's own University' would be restored high up where it was formerly placed. This he stated would bring glory to God. Otuanta urged University staff to show good example by embracing rather than resisting change. Adding that change would lead to posterity.