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“We are set to obey FG directive on relisting of delisted courses in COLMAS” – VC

Ubadire Agua



Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR
(President Of Nigeria)



Sen. Abubakar Kyari
(Honorable Minister - FMAFS)



Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOU AU)

The Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, CFS, has assured stakeholders that the University is set to obey directive of the Federal Government on relisting courses in the College of Management Sciences (COLMAS).

The Vice-Chancellor gave the assurance while addressing members of Senate during the 244th Regular Meeting held on December 20, 2024, and members of the University Community during the MOU AU Prays programme on Tuesday, January 5, 2025.

According to Prof. Iwe, the University is in receipt of a memo from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, which conveyed the approval in the interim for the relisting of the delisted Management courses in MOU AU, for the promotion of agricultur-



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al entrepreneurship in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda on Food and Nutrition Security.

Following through on this directive, the Vice-Chancellor said "MOUUAU is a law-abiding Institution and will always adhere to directives of the Federal Government. We are set to commence the process of relisting the delisted courses in the College of Management Sciences as directed by the Federal Government recently".

How did we get here?

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike commenced programmes in the College of Agribusiness and Financial Management (CABFM) in the 2003/2004 academic session with Departments of Accounting, Agribusiness, Banking and Finance, and Marketing, with the aim of satisfying the provisions of the law establishing the University, which allows for the mounting of allied courses to agriculture in the University, and meeting the needs of teaming subscribers in

the field.

CABFM was renamed College of Management Sciences (COLMAS) in the 2012/2013 academic session, and in doing so, the Departments of Business Administration, Economics, Industrial and Personnel Management and Entrepreneurial Studies were added to the College.

Courses in COLMAS, apart from Industrial and Personnel Management and Entrepreneurial Studies were delisted via a Presidential directive in 2018 and admissions into them stopped in 2018/2019 session.

Reactions to the new development:

Many members of Senate and the University Community have commended the Vice-Chancellor for his doggedness in seeking FG's considerations and approval for relisting the delisted courses. In particular, Dean of COLMAS, Prof. Wilson U. Ani, said, "I am writing on behalf of COLMAS to express our deepest gratitude and admi-

ration for your tireless efforts at securing the relisting of the College of Management Sciences' courses, as you promised on the assumption of office. Your unwavering commitment, perseverance and navigational skills in overcoming the challenging scenarios, coupled with your unrelenting passion have earned the College and indeed the Institution a renewed sense of purpose".

Going Forward

Speaking to MOUUAU News, the Vice-Chancellor said that the University has now invited the National Universities Commission (NUC) to visit the programmes for Resource Verification (RV) and hopes that the outcome would be positive and lead to approval for admission into the programmes during the 2025/2026 academic session.

Prof. Iwe noted that the University had invested a lot of human capital and infrastructure in the programmes and expressed his optimism that the RV visit would be positive.

The very essence of
leadership is that you
have to have vision. You
can't blow an uncertain
trumpet.

Theodore Hesburgh



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Vice Chancellor's Town hall meeting with MOUAU Staff: Lessons on Leadership and Communication in University Administration

Chinedu Ononiwu



Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOUAU)

In a new year's meeting held on January 14, 2025, at the 3-Winged Hall of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, delivered a thought-provoking address which points to the essence of communication and leadership in university administration.

The meeting, attended by staff from across the institution, highlighted achievements, challenges, and a call for collective responsibility in moving the university towards greater success. During the meeting, Prof. Iwe reaffirmed his commitment to fostering

open and transparent communication.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated his administration's focus on innovation and resourcefulness. He cited significant strides made by his administration despite limited resources, including:

- Revitalisation of the University's Microfinance Bank and MOUAU Nigeria Ltd, which have been moribund for long.
- Launching of entrepreneurial ventures such as the bread and biscuit factory and water processing facility.
- Infrastructure enhancements, including new hostels, equipped laboratories, and operationalised solar energy systems.
- Strengthening academic excellence through accreditation of

programmes, staff promotions, and research funding.

These achievements reflect the Vice-Chancellor's strategic approach to leadership in a way that balances immediate needs with long-term institutional goals.

Prof. Iwe did not shy away from discussing the challenges confronting the university, including financial constraints, staff absenteeism, and infrastructural insecurity and called for a collective effort to address these issues, urging staff to uphold professionalism, integrity, and commitment. Specific concerns raised included:

- Staff apathy and absenteeism undermining productivity.
- Security lapses leading to vandalism of university property.
- Persistent funding gaps exacerbated by external factors like industrial actions and inflation.

The Vice-Chancellor's candid acknowledgment of these challenges exemplifies transparent leadership, while his appeal for proactive engagement highlights his collaborative leadership style. The Vice-Chancellor's address also touched on upcoming milestones, including the matriculation ceremony, research exhibition, and endowment lecture, emphasizing the need for staff and students to align with the university's academic calendar. Prof. Iwe's emphasis on these



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events reflects his focus on fostering a culture of academic excellence and intellectual engagement.

Lessons:

Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe has demonstrated a participatory leadership style which ensures that staff members of the University remain informed about the university's progress and challenges, by addressing them directly. He has also demonstrated his dedication to guiding Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, toward a future which is defined by excellence and inclusivity; highlighting both achieve-

ments and challenges,

The meeting also served as an avenue for members of staff of the University to air their views on issues around staff welfare. The staff got the assurances of the Vice-Chancellor that his administration would continue to prioritise staff welfare, urging the various University Unions to fashion modalities to assist in the welfare of their members, especially in the area of providing affordable and convenient means of transportation.

As the university continues to

grow, the Vice-Chancellor's meeting with members of staff of the University, serves as a reminder of the power of collaborative leadership and open communication in achieving institutional goals. Through collaborative leadership and open communication as exemplified in the meeting, a sense of shared ownership has been reignited among members of staff of the University, which is expected to make them work harder to overcome challenges, adapt effectively, and help the institution to achieve sustainable growth.

Town Hall Meeting: VC Announces Upcoming Events, Urges Staff to Participate Actively

Sunday Anyim



The Vice-Chancellor, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU), Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has announced a number of events being planned by the University for the year 2025.

The major events Prof. Iwe outlined include: 2nd MOUUAU Research and Innovation Fair/Conference (MOUUAU RIFC) and 2nd Dr. M.I. Okpara Endowment Lecture.

According to the Vice-Chancel-

lor, the 2nd MOUUAU REIFC would hold on 26th and 27th February, 2025, the 2nd Dr. M. I. Okpara Endowment Lecture slated on 3rd May, 2025.

The VC, while addressing Staff during the Town Hall Meeting at held Tuesday, 14th January, 2025, at the 3-Wing Hall, urged Staff to be actively involved in the events .

On the successful completion of the 2024/2025 University Calendar Academic Session, Prof. Iwe called on staff to encourage students to follow and obey the calendar by registering their courses and updating their biometrics so as to have a hitch-free semester examination.



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Vice Chancellor Restates Vision, Highlights Achievements at MOUAAU Staff Meeting

Ginger Eke Collins



**Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOUAAU)**

In a strategic address during a university-wide staff meeting at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAAU), The Vice Chancellor Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe reiterated his vision for the institution while presenting an impressive record of accomplishments under his leadership. The meeting, held at the 3-Wing Hall on 14th January 2025, brought together academic and non-teaching staff, creating a platform for dialogue and progress evaluation.

Prof. Iwe reaffirmed his sev-

en-point vision, which includes building a strong and efficient administration, advancing research, fostering an enabling environment for teaching and learning, and cultivating disciplined, patriotic citizens. He also emphasized the University's commitment to promoting agriculture, science, technology, and entrepreneurship, alongside enhancing ICT infrastructure to meet the demands of the global village.

Achievements

Reflecting on the University's achievements, Prof. Iwe highlighted the revival of MOUAAU Microfinance Bank, which had been stagnant for years but now provides critical financial support to

the University. He also noted the restoration of the University Fuel Station and the re-registration of the MOUAAU Nigeria Limited abandoned for over 15 years. These initiatives are aimed at attaining financial independence and sustainability within the institution.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the University has made significant progress in infrastructural development. According to the VC, some of the projects are Government sponsored like, Energising Education Hybrid Solar Project, the operationalization of the bread and biscuit factory, the establishment of a water processing factory, and the relocation of postgraduate students to a dedicated hostel while some donated are EMT facility, NISPRI Post harvest hub and UNIPOD skills development laboratory.

Prof. Iwe emphasized his commitment to staff welfare, highlighting the prompt processing of promotions and research funds. He noted efforts to foster peace and equity within the university, which have created an environment of inclusivity and collaboration.

Prof. Iwe pointed out the Universities innovations in smart-agriculture that gave rise to masive harvest of tomatoes and peppers in green houses.



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“Our challenges are many, but we are addressing them” - VC MOUAU

Joy Nlebedum



Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOUAU)

Like other Universities in Nigeria, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUAU) is grappling with some challenges, but the Vice Chancellor of the institution Prof. Mmaduebibisi Ofo Iwe says his administration is addressing them.

Some of the challenges the Vice-Chancellor listed during a townhall meeting with the staff includes: inadequate Funding, insufficient infrastructure, outdated laboratory equipment, limited digital tools and IT infrastructure and low bandwidth.

Others are inability to retain best brains due to limited incentives, research grants and competitive enumeration.

These challenges which are not limited to the University notwithstanding, the Vice Chancellor expressed his optimism that the university would overcome.

4,821 MOUAU STUDENTS TAKE OATH AT 31ST MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Sunday Anyim

No fewer than 4,821 fresh men took oath to be of good behaviour and abide by the University rules and regulations at the 31st Matriculation ceremony of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike held Friday 24th January 2025.

The oath administered by the Registrar of the University Dr. Nkeiruka Charity Mbanasor read in part “i sincerely promise and publicly declare that i will respect and obey the vice chancellor and other officers of the University and that i would faithfully and conscientiously observe all rules and regulations which may from

time to time be made for the good order and governance of the university,”

The registrar before administering the oath explained the importance on the matricular and also warned them against violating the oath.

A total number of 4,821 representing 4,600 regular students, 150 Continuing Education students and 31 Postgraduate students admitted for the 2024/2025 Academic Session took the Oath of Matriculation during the exercise.



Dr. Nkeiruka C. Mbanasor
(Registrar MOUAU)



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MOUUAU Holds 31st Matriculation, VC Warns Freshmen Against Cultism, Exam Malpractice

Chinedu Ononiwu



Prof. Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe
(Vice Chancellor MOUUAU)

The Vice-Chancellor of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike (MOUUAU), Professor Maduebibisi Ofo Iwe, has cautioned newly admitted students to steer clear of cultism and examination malpractice, warning of severe consequences for such offences. He gave the charge during the institution's 31st matriculation ceremony, held on Friday, January 24.

while Addressing the matriculating students, Prof. Iwe congratulated them on gaining admission to the university and encouraged them to make the most of the institution's numerous opportunities, "As you wear your academic

gowns and take the matriculation oath, remember that you are not just students; you are now part of a community dedicated to excellence and positive change"

The Vice Chancellor emphasised the importance of upholding the university's core values of integrity, respect, and a commitment to excellence while reiterating the institution's zero-tolerance policy toward cultism and examination malpractice. "MOUUAU vehemently condemns any form of cult-related activities. Such actions endanger individuals and erode the foundation of our community,"

Professor Iwe also stated that Engaging in examination malpractice not only jeopardises students

academic standing but also undermines the credibility of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor reminded students of the University's role in advancing agricultural innovation, environmental sustainability, and technological solutions to enhance farmers' welfare. He urged them to embody the values of honesty, diligence, and patriotism in their academic and personal lives.

He also inspired the students with commendations on the achievements of past graduates who excelled academically, urging the new intakes to draw motivation from their exemplary predecessors.



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