



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
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Press Release



**FG INAUGURATES ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT PANEL FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Arc Sonny Echono has said that the challenges facing the African University of Science and Technology are consequences of the unresolved ownership and governance issues.

He made this known recently in Abuja, when he inaugurated the Administrative Audit Panel of the African University of Science and Technology (ASUT) Abuja.

Echono stated that the constitution of the Audit Panel had become imperative following several worrisome reports received by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC).

He added that the constitution of the Panel will enable government take a more in-depth review of the affairs of the university.

He further revealed that the University is jointly owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Nelson Mandela Institutions (NMI). Adding that the cooperation Agreement clearly spelt out the obligations of each partner.

Arc. Echono named the following as members of the Audit panel and emphasized that the membership of this Panel is selected based on their track record of competence and proven integrity.

- Prof Emeritus Nimi Briggs - Chairman
- Prof Afis A. Oladosu - Member
- Mr Joel Ojo (Director, Tertiary Education (FME) - Member
- Mr Balarabe Z. Ahmad (Rep. of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund) member
- Rep. of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) -Member
- Rep of the Federal Ministry of Finance - Member
- Dr S. B. Raman Yusuf Deputy Executive Secretary I, NUC - Member
- Mr Chris J Maiyaki (Director, Executive Secretary's Office, NUC)
- Dr Abubakar Mohammed Siddique, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria - Member
- Mal, Hamza Abdullahi, Director Establishment of Private Universities, NUC -Member/Secretary
- Mr Moses Awe, Deputy Director (Legal), NUC - Assistant Secretary

He further stated the terms of reference of the audit panel as follows:

- To conduct an in-depth review of the issue of Proprietorship/Ownership of the University as a private university and advise on appropriate actions to be taken by Government;
- To critically examine the Governance arrangement in the Institution in terms of the role of the Board of Trustees, Governing Council, the Management, the Senate, the Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officer in the general administration of the University and make appropriate recommendations.
- To examine the Financial Management System of the university, investigate the application of funds particularly the special grants from Nigeria Government and the PTDF, as well as the tuitions fees, the use of appropriated and generated funds and determine whether it was in compliance with appropriate regulations;

- To examine the 'Cooperation Agreement' and the 'Law' establishing the institution and see in what ways they have been observed, in all their ramifications and also suggest any necessary modification to the Law to enable the University achieve its objective better;
- To examine the status and usage of the University Land, level of physical development and determine whether it was in compliance with appropriate regulations;
- To examine all academic matters including academic programmes/activities, research activities, admissions procedures, examinations administration and make appropriate recommendations for improvements;
- To advise on any or all other aspects of the Institution that the panel consider should be of interest of both the Nigerian Government and the public, and to the attainment of the objectives for which the Institution was licensed.

The Panel has 6 weeks within which to submit its report.

Ben Ben Goong

DD (Press/PR)