



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Views of the Government of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the
Visitation Report into the Affairs of the
Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu-Alike
(2011 - 2015)**

DECEMBER, 2022

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**WHITEPAPERONTHEREPORTOTFHEVISITATIONPANELINTOTHEAFFAIRS
OF ALEX EKWUEME UNIVERSITY, NDUFU-ALIKE
(2011–2015)**



ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph:

1. Publication of Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the Affairs of Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu-Alike (2011–2015)

2. Citation.

SCHEDULE

**WHITEPAPERONTHEREPORTOFTHEVISITATIONPANELINTO
THE AFFAIRS OF ALEX EKWUEME UNIVERSITY, NDUFU-ALIKE
(2011–2015)**

1. The Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel to Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu-Alike (2011–2015) as provided in the schedule to this Notice is hereby published in the Federal Government Gazette.

Publication
of Federal
Government
White Paper
on the
Report of
the Visitation
Panel to
Alex
Ekwueme
University,
Ndufu-Alike.
(2011–
2015).

2. This Notice may be cited as the “White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel to Alex Ekwueme University, Ndufu-Alike (2011–2015)”.

Citation.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The President, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers conferred on him as Visitor to Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, approved the constitution of a Visitation Panel to the University, covering the period 2011 to 2015. Consequently, the Permanent Secretary, Arc. Sunday Echono, representing the Honourable Minister of Education, Mal. Adamu Adamu inaugurated the Panel on 13th April, 2021 at the National Universities Commission, Maitama, Abuja.

1.1. COMPOSITION OF PANEL

Members of the Panel were :

(i)	Amb. Usman Sarki	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Chairman</i>
(ii)	Dr. Modupeola B. Adeniran	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Member</i>
(iii)	Dr. Wilfred A. Iguodala	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Member</i>
(iv)	Alh. Usman Ibrahim Shehu (FCA)	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Member</i>
(v)	Prof. Victor Dugga	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Member</i>
(vi)	Prof. Olubunmi A. Omotesho	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Member</i>
(vii)	Dr. Victoria Terkumbur Pillah	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Secretary</i>

1.2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel's Terms of Reference were to :

(i) inquire into the level of implementation of the White Paper on the last Visitation Report;

(ii) examine the leadership quality of the University in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor, other Principal Officers as well as organs of the Institution ;

(iii) look into the financial management of the Institution including statutory allocations and internally generated revenue over the recommended period, and determine whether it was in compliance with appropriate regulations ;

(iv) investigate the application of funds, particularly the special grants and loans meant for specific projects, in order to determine the status of such projects and their relevance for further funding ;

(v) examine adequacy of the staff and staff development programs of the university ;

(vi) determine the relationship between the university and the various statutory bodies it interacts with according to its law, for the purposes of supervision, planning, finance, discipline, guidance and any other relationship (i.e., Governing Council, National Universities Commission, Federal Ministry of Education);

(vii) examine the law establishing the university, including the relationship between the various internal organs, units and offices, and indicate the ways the law has been observed by the competent authorities, and also suggest any modifications to the law ;

(viii) trace the historical evolution of the university and take stock of its net achievements and problems as well as its style and direction ;

(ix) examine the general security in the university and how the university has dealt with it, and recommend appropriate measures ; and

(x) examine the processes and structures of discipline of students in the university in line with due process of the rule of law.

1.3. Details of the Findings/Observations and Recommendations of the Visitation Panel, as well as the comments indicating recommendations accepted, noted or rejected by the Visitor are contained in a tabular format in sections 2 - 11 of this gazette. The highlights of the Visitor's directives include:

(i) Council to ensure that appointment of principal officers follow the laid down processes ;

(ii) Council to ensure that the period for acting in any of the principal positions does not exceed six months ;

(iii) Council should ensure that creation of new units should be accompanied with an extensive planning document for its growth pattern ;

(iv) the Bursar should live up to his/her responsibilities ;

(v) the university should ensure computerization of Bursary operations;

(vi) the university should adhere to extant financial regulations and circulars;

(vii) Council should ensure that management institutes a Fixed Assets policy with a properly maintained Fixed Assets Register ;

(viii) Management should ensure that Management's statements are prepared in readiness for external audits timely ;

(ix) Council should ensure that External Auditors undertake their assignments professionally ;

(x) FME should strengthen its mechanism for monitoring implementation of Visitor's directives;

(xi) the Management should establish and implement a budget policy ;

(xii) the University Senate should activate its statutory budgetary committees;

(xiii) Management should explore sources for improving IGR and more funds;

(xiv) Council to ensure that Contractors for abandoned projects are compelled to return to site and complete the projects ;

(xv) Management should comply with NUC guidelines, especially on staff mix;

(xvi) the University should make effort to recover the resources expended on the absconded members of staff and strengthen the conditions of bonding;

(xvii) Council should engage the relevant stakeholders on resolving issues related to land of the University and brief FME as and when due;

(xviii) Management should ensure that the Academic Brief and the Master Plan are reviewed ;

(xix) Management should ensure that the Strategic Plan is reworked to provide clear time-frames for the attainment of specified goals ; and

(xx) Council should institute good Governance structure.

TERM OF REFERENCE ONE

"To inquire into the level of implementation of the White Paper on the last Visitation."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
2.1.	REPORT ON LAST VISITATION EXERCISE	This Term of Reference is not applicable as the University was only due for the first Presidential Visitation in 2015.	The Visitor to the University should constitute Visitation Panels as and when due.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE TWO

"To look into the leadership quality of the University in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officers."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
3.1.	THE GOVERNING COUNCIL	<p>(i) The quality of the leadership of the Governing Council was assessed through responses, are rated average in nine out of the fourteen items, mostly related to staff and student matters.</p> <p>(ii) The Chancellor has a good rapport with the University community and has attracted financial support to the University.</p>	Council to pay more attention to the welfare of staff and students.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
3.2.	THE VICE-CHANCELLOR	<p>(a) <i>Vice Chancellor and Senate</i></p> <p>(i) Appointed by the Visitor and under the supervision of the Federal Minister of Education, in the absence of a Governing Council.</p> <p>(ii) Rated highest on leadership but average on financial prudence.</p> <p>(iii) Not resident in State.</p> <p>(b) <i>Senate</i></p> <p>(i) The pioneer University Senate held twenty-nine Regular Meetings and set up the structures for proper running of academic activities.</p>	<p>(i) Vice-Chancellors should be appointed by the Governing Council.</p> <p>(ii) Vice-Chancellors should be resident in their locations.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations.</i>

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
3.3.	REGISTRAR	<p>(i) Appointed by the Visitor and established nine units in the Registry. Rated good in all items of assessment by staff and average in responsiveness to students' needs. Rated highest in keeping confidential records of staff and students.</p>	<p>(i) Appointment to be timely and follow laid down procedures.</p> <p>(ii) Unwieldy number of units should be pruned down appropriately.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations and directs that the units should be pruned down to manageable size.</i>
3.4.	BURSAR	<p>(i) Initially, financial services rendered by external accounting staff operating on an ad-hoc basis.</p> <p>(ii) An acting Bursar was subsequently appointed to set up the Bursary and he acted for too long a time before being appointed as the substantive Bursar by the Governing Council.</p> <p>(iii) Rated highest on general sense of duty, but average in competency and cognitive skills, apparently due to lack of adequate cognate experience in the University system at the time of assumption of office.</p>	<p>(i) All Principal Officers should be appointed at the same time.</p> <p>(ii) Nobody should act for more than six months in a Principal Position.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>
3.5.	LIBRARIAN	<p>(i) Library uncompleted with inadequate capacity.</p> <p>(ii) Librarian appointed by the Governing Council after acting for more than three years.</p>	The Library should be located in a permanent and suitable accommodation.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>

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<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		(iii) Rated good by staff in nine out of eleven criteria and average in the remaining two. Student rating was on a five out of seven criteria.		

TERM OF REFERENCE THREE

"To look into the financial management of each Institution including statutory allocations and internally generated revenue over the recommended period, and determine whether it was in compliance with appropriate regulations."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
4.1.	THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY FINANCE SOURCES OF FUNDING	<p>(i) Bursary activities were yet to be computerized, though the computerization of the payroll was completed. The Department carried out other activities manually leading to non-provision of adequate and appropriate financial information.</p> <p>(ii) Management accounts for the five years were audited and Reports issued. However, the first three (3) years 2011–2013 were done in arrears.</p> <p>(iii) The University's Bursary operations migrated to the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) platform towards the end of the period under consideration.</p> <p>(iv) Discrepancies were observed in balances between the management accounts and the audited accounts.</p>	<p>(i) Full computerization of Bursary operations should be undertaken to ensure efficiency and reliability of records.</p> <p>(ii) Regular audits of accounts should be undertaken in compliance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>(iii) The Bursary should always work closely with the external auditors to understand and reconcile their differences. Such issues must be agreed upon before the finalization of the accounts.</p>	Visitor accepts these recommendations.
4.2.	STRUCTURE AND LEADERSHIP	(i) The Bursary had no long-term plan at take-off hence, the use of Ad-Hoc staff.	(i) There should be extensive planning documents for growth of units.	Visitor accepts these recommendations.

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<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		<p>(ii) No proper budgeting procedure was in place.</p> <p>(iii) The Bursary was overstaffed and furthermore, the staff were not adequately trained.</p>	<p>(ii) The Bursar should ensure sound financial management such as proper budget planning and implementation.</p> <p>(iii) There should be regular training for Bursary staff.</p>	
43.	UNIVERSITY BANK ACCOUNT	<p>(i) Government directives on Treasury Single Account (TSA) non-adherence : In 2015, the University had twelve (12) accounts with six (6) banks.</p> <p>(ii) The individual balances in the 12 accounts totalled ₦413,546,304.62.</p> <p>(iii) All funds in the twelve (12) accounts were mopped up to the University's TSA account number 0310497161017. However, discrepancies were observed which Management was expected to properly reconcile.</p>	<p>(i) There should be reconciliation of all discrepancies.</p> <p>(ii) Any shortfall after reconciliation should be promptly taken up with REMITA for redemption.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations and directs management to explain reconciliation done.</i>
44.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT	<p>(i) The University could have earned additional income if mopped-up funds had been placed in interest yielding accounts.</p>	<p>The Bursar should always explore legal ways and areas of enhancing the University's finances.</p>	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
45.	FIXED ASSETS REGISTER	<p>(i) No Proper fixed asset register.</p> <p>(ii) No fixed assets policy.</p>	<p>(i) The University should institute a fixed assets policy.</p> <p>(ii) The University should open and properly maintain a fixed asset register.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations and requests an update.</i>

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
4.6.	INTERNAL AUDIT	<p>(i) Internal Audit Unit started in late 2013 and annual audit exercise conducted for the years 2013 to 2015.</p> <p>(ii) The unit's 2015 report raised some issues of financial imprudence.</p>	<p>(i) Management should curtail abuse of loopholes by creating procedures for adequate checks and controls.</p> <p>(ii) With the anticipated computerization of the Bursary, there should be more of systems audit.</p> <p>(iii) Training for audit staff, especially on automation, systems audit and analysis should be given priority.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations and requests an update.</i>
4.7.	EXTERNAL AUDIT	<p>(i) Not all information were provided and reflected in the accounts, especially as related to government grants. Bursary may not have provided all information to the external auditors, and the external auditors did not exhibit professionalism and capacity to obtain relevant information and records to enable them prepare a credible audited accounts and reports.</p>	<p>(i) Council should ensure that Management Accounts are prepared and presented for audit within a reasonable period not exceeding 3 months of the succeeding year.</p> <p>(ii) External Auditors should be professional in their approach.</p> <p>(iii) It is mandatory for auditors to prepare and present draft accounts for Management review before finalization.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>
4.8.	BUDGET AND BUDGETARY CONTROL	<p>(i) The budgetary process during the period under review was non-participatory.</p> <p>(ii) No evidence of functional budgetary process.</p>	<p>(i) The Management should put in place and activate a budget policy.</p> <p>(ii) The University Senate should activate its statutory budgetary committees to implement the budgetary processes and make it participatory.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
4.9.	INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR)	<p>(i) IGR were from the following sources : Student charges, hiring of gowns, tendering fees, staff house rents, computer services and sundry incomes.</p> <p>(ii) Wrong classification of National Universities Commission (NUC) grants as IGR.</p> <p>(iii) Terms of grants (if any) were not made available.</p>	<p>(i) The University should strive to widen its IGR base.</p> <p>(ii) The University should develop an endowment policy and peg a minimum amount that can qualify for such purposes.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations and directs the University to implement.</i>
4.9.1.	SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY	<p>(i) Funds were received from several sources including statutory and non-statutory grants.</p> <p>(ii) Funds for capital development and purchases came mainly from the following sources:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved Capital Budget. 2. Special Intervention funds from TETFund. 3. Internally Generated Revenue. 4. Other donors and individuals. <p>(iii) The University's Internally Generated Revenue for the period amounted to ₦433,661,857.</p> <p>(iv) Grants totalling ₦35,500,000 were received from NUC.</p>	<p>(i) The University should endeavour to attract grants from within Nigeria and abroad.</p> <p>(ii) In presentation of financial reports, the purposes for all grants should be clearly stated to avoid ambiguity in classification.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
4.9.2.	POLICY, PROCESSES AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	<p>(i) The foundation buildings were determined, designed, awarded and funded centrally as prototypes in all the new universities.</p> <p>(ii) Supervision of these projects was problematic because the contractors were not answerable to the university.</p> <p>(iii) No policy or process for project design and implementation outside the Procurement Act in place.</p> <p>(iv) Poor handling of most of the TETFund projects, especially building construction.</p> <p>(v) Two major projects, the Central Administration Building awarded in 2012 at the cost of N510 million and the main Library Building awarded at the same time at the cost of N220million, were abandoned.</p> <p>(vi) The major capital project undertaken by the University between 2011 and 2015 from its statutory allocation was the construction of the Gate House.</p> <p>(vii) The External Auditors' 2013 Management Letter stated that the University had</p>	<p>(i) The process of selecting contractors should be resident with the University.</p> <p>(ii) The Contractors for the projects abandoned should be compelled to return to site and complete the projects.</p> <p>(iii) Funds for the uncompleted projects should be duly released to ensure timely completion.</p> <p>(iv) Capital allocation to the University should be increased to enable more capital projects to be undertaken.</p> <p>(v) Contracts awarded from every government source should be closely monitored by the University's Physical Planning Unit to ensure value for money.</p> <p>(vi) Project Consultants should be held liable for defects identified in buildings.</p> <p>(vii) The Governing Council's Capital Project Monitoring Committee should be constituted and made functional.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		<p>an unaccessed sum of ₦456 million for capital projects. Similarly, the Management Letter reported that the University had not fully utilized other TETFund grants amounting to ₦210 million.</p> <p>(viii) The Panel did not find any project in legal dispute.</p>		
493.	TETFUND INTERVENTIONS	<p>(i) TETFund executed about 107 different projects in total.</p> <p>(ii) Most of the projects were under normal intervention, one was a NEEDS Assessment and seven were Presidential Special interventions.</p> <p>(iii) Cost of ₦5,199,301,608.20</p> <p>(iv) The Panel noted two Prototype Presidential Special Interventions projects were abandoned.</p> <p>(v) Most TETFund projects were poorly handled.</p> <p>(vi) The University Management was not involved in the selection of competent contractors.</p>	<p>(i) The institution should be allowed to initiate the projects, select competent contractors following due process, and supervise the projects according to laid down procedure.</p> <p>(ii) The contractor handling the Administrative Building, and the Library Building should be compelled to return to site and complete their projects.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes these recommendations and directs Management to provide update on the abandoned projects.</i></p>

TERM OF REFERENCE FOUR

“Investigate the application of funds, particularly the special grants and loans meant for specific projects in order to determine the status of such projects and their relevance for further funding.”

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
5.1.	SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY	The University received funds from both statutory and non-statutory grants.	The University should endeavour to attract grants from within Nigeria and abroad for research and physical infrastructural development.	Visitor notes this recommendation.

TERM OF REFERENCE FIVE

"To examine the adequacy of the staff and staff development programmes of the University."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
61.	STUDENT ENROLMENT	<p>The student enrolment grew astronomically without corresponding increase in academic facilities.</p> <p>The total enrolments into the programmes for the four(4) academic years did not satisfy the 60 : 40 Science / Arts ratios expected of a conventional university in accordance with the Educational Policy of the Federal Government.</p> <p>The University met the objective of improved access to higher education.</p> <p>Male students accounted for 53.5 per cent of the total students' enrolment while female students were 46.5 per cent.</p>	<p>(i) The University should develop an acceptable Academic Brief to guide future developments of the institution.</p> <p>(ii) The University should pay attention to, and adhere to Government Policies guiding higher education.</p>	Visitor notes these recommendations.
62.	ACADEMIC STAFF	<p>(i) The teacher: student ratio was lower than recommended across all faculties.</p> <p>(ii) The percentage of lecturers with Ph.D. ranged between 18 per cent and 44 per cent as against the recommended minimum of 70 per cent.</p> <p>(iii) The distribution of academic staff was skewed (82 per cent) in favour of Ebonyi State.</p>	<p>(i) There should be zero growth of lecturers in the affected programmes.</p> <p>(ii) The University should also ensure that lecturers are appointed and are available on ground before bringing in students into new programmes.</p> <p>(iii) The University should step up staff development programmes for lecturers to enable them acquire Ph.Ds.</p>	Visitor accepts these recommendations.

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
63.	NON-ACADEMIC STAFF	<p>(i) A substantial proportion of the senior administrative staff (42.8 per cent) were from States contiguous to the University.</p> <p>(ii) The analysis of staff strength in the senior administrative cadre showed that 58 per cent were male and 42 per cent were female.</p> <p>(iii) There were excess staff in the Non-academic staff category.</p> <p>(iv) There was a dearth of senior administrative staff but a bloated number at the lower levels.</p> <p>(v) Several units were not served with the appropriate secretarial support.</p> <p>(vi) Junior staff from Ebonyi State constituted 89 per cent of the staff in that cadre, thereby complying with host State requirements.</p> <p>(vii) Number of junior staff employed were far below requirements.</p>	<p>(i) The University should have zero growth in senior administrative staff cadre until warranted by growth in academic programmes, and student population so dictates.</p> <p>(ii) Appropriate secretarial support should be provided in all units not presently served.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations.</i>
64.	STAFF DEVELOPMENT	<p>(i) Staff Development policies and funding existed as part of the programmes of the University.</p> <p>(ii) The University relied primarily on TETFund as source for funding the staff development programmes.</p>	The University should make effort to recover resources expended on the absconded members of staff and strengthen the conditions of bonding.	<i>Visitor accepts this recommendation and directs the University to implement.</i>

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<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		<p>(iii) The funds were managed according to the guidelines of TETFund and domiciled in the Directorate of Academic Planning.</p> <p>(iv) The University employed many Graduate Assistants and granted them post-graduate funding for training at home and abroad.</p> <p>(v) Some of the sponsored academic staff refused to return upon graduation.</p> <p>(vi) Through the staff development programme of the University, the number of staff who acquired higher degrees increased substantially and fortified the quality of the Institution.</p>		

TERMOFREFERENCESIX

"To determine the relationship between the University and the various statutory bodies it interacts with according to its law for the purposes of supervision, planning, finance, discipline, guidance and any other relationship [i.e., Governing Council, NUC and the Federal Ministry of Education]."

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
7.1.	GOVERNING COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH STATUTORY BODIES	<p>FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (FME)</p> <p>Good working relationship but Ministry did not monitor and supervise projects.</p> <p>NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC)</p> <p>(i) Smooth working relationship.</p> <p>(ii) Conducted Programme verification and accreditation exercises.</p> <p>(iii) Facilitated funds disbursement.</p> <p>(iv) Did not undertake regular monitoring.</p> <p>JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD (JAMB)</p> <p>(i) Students were admitted through the JAMB.</p> <p>(ii) The University participated in all the policy and admission meetings of the Board.</p> <p>TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFUND)</p> <p>Had a functional relationship TETFUND.</p>	<p>(i) The Federal Ministry of Education should have taken a more active role in monitoring and project supervision in the absence of a Governing Council.</p> <p>(ii) The NUC should provide regulatory support to the University.</p> <p>(iii) The University should engage with stakeholders with a view to resolving the matter of the land on which the University is situated.</p> <p>(iv) The University should sustain the cordial relationship with security agencies while putting in place robust security architecture for the institution.</p>	Visitor notes these recommendations.

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		<p>INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA (ICAN)</p> <p>The ICAN successfully conducted supervisory visits to the University to grant recognition to the Accounting programme.</p> <p>UNIVERSITY HOST COMMUNITIES</p> <p>(i) The University is sited on 438 hectares of land acquired from Ndufu-Alike and Ndufu-Echara autonomous Communities.</p> <p>(ii) The University constituted a Committee to dialogue with, and study the culture of Ikwo people to enable both staff and students to understand the culture of the people and promote peace on campus.</p> <p>(iii) Some members of the host communities have continued to reside in their ancestral homes within the University campus. They also carry on their livelihood activities side by side the university's daily routine.</p> <p>(iv) The Ebonyi State Government continued to maintain a cordial relationship with the University.</p>		

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
		<p>RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS</p> <p>Good working relationship.</p> <p>SECURITY AGENCIES</p> <p>Enjoys close rapport with communities in the immediate environment who provide vigilante support around the campus. In times of need, the Police, the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) collaborate to give maximum support to secure life and property in the University.</p>		

TERM OF REFERENCE SEVEN

"To examine the law establishing the University including the relationship between the various internal organs, units, and offices and indicate the ways the law has been observed by the competent authorities, and also suggest any modifications to the law."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
8.0.	GOVERNANCE	<p>(i) The Law establishing the University was signed in 2015.</p> <p>(ii) The Law was flawed in many areas that could impede the performance of the various officers and expose the University to legal jeopardy.</p>	The Establishment Act should be reviewed to update its content in scope and accuracy.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
8.1.	OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALEX EKWUEME UNIVERSITY, NDUFU-ALIKE IKWO	(i) There are other legal provisions by the Federal Government or legislated by the National Assembly which include The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act 2003, generally known as the Autonomy Act, which was amended as Act No. 1 of 2007 and gazetted in the Federal Government of Nigeria Official Gazette No. 10 Volume 94 of 12th January, 2007.	The University has operated within the ambits of these extant laws and should continue to adhere to the provisions therein.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE EIGHT

"To trace the historical evolution of the University and take stock of its net achievements and problems as well as its style and direction."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
9.0.	ACHIEVEMENTS	<p>(i) Witnessed tremendous growth but facilities in the University are inadequate and overstretched.</p> <p>(ii) Conspicuous shortage of hostel, lecture theatres/halls, laboratories, library facilities, and offices.</p> <p>(iii) Poor governance in the early years of its existence.</p>	<p>(i) The Federal Government should ensure that adequate preparations are made which include the strategic documents to guide the proper establishment and eventual take-off of new universities.</p> <p>(ii) Management should ensure that the Academic Brief and the Master Plan are thoroughly reviewed to provide clearer time-frames for the attainment of specified goals.</p> <p>(iii) Good structure of Governance should be put in place to correct the lapses of the foundation years.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE NINE

"To examine the general security in the University and how the University has dealt with it, and recommend appropriate measures."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
10.0.	SECURITY	<p>(i) The community organised vigilante to prevent incursions into the university's land.</p> <p>(ii) The University Security Unit was established in 2012 but suffered poor staffing, equipping and training of staff.</p> <p>(iii) Lack of perimeter fence.</p> <p>(iv) Absence of an Academic Brief contributed to the haphazard development witnessed in the Security Unit.</p> <p>(v) Tone of the University campus is generally tranquil.</p>	<p>(i) The Security Unit should be adequately staffed with able-bodied personnel to efficiently secure the University.</p> <p>(ii) The Security personnel should be regularly trained and equipped by the University for their duties.</p> <p>(iii) The host community should be encouraged to continue to support security in the University through the Vigilante groups.</p> <p>(iv) The University should undertake to provide perimeter fencing to secure its land.</p> <p>(v) Planning for the Security Unit should be done and incorporated into the University's Academic Brief and Master Plan.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE TEN

"To Examine the Processes and Structures of Discipline of Students in the University in line with Due Process of the Rule of Law."

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
II.0.	LAW AND REGULATION FOR OFFENCES	<p>(i) The General Students' handbook was widely circulated to all students upon first registration in the University. However, its currency could not be determined as it was not dated.</p> <p>(ii) The regulation in Section 5.3 provides for a Students' Disciplinary Committee of the Senate to handle all matters relating to students' discipline in the University.</p> <p>(iii) The membership comprises the Vice Chancellor (or Representative) as Chairman, Registrar (or Representative), the Dean, Students' Affairs, two Senate Representatives, the Chief Security Officer, Two Academic staff appointed by the Chairman and two student Representatives.</p> <p>(iv) The Committee investigates disciplinary cases involving students of the University and reports concluded matters to Senate for information and / or action.</p>	<p>(i) The Students' Handbook should be reviewed and properly dated to show its currency and validity period.</p> <p>(ii) The Handbook referred to some infractions as 'malpractice' which requires criminal procedures beyond the jurisdiction of the University. It is recommended that the word 'misconduct' be adopted in its place, to allow for the University's internal processes to be exhausted.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

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DATED at Abuja this 20th day of December, 2022.

MUHAMMADU BUHARI, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

