



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Views of the Government of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the
Visitation Report into the Affairs of the
University of Port Harcourt
(2016 - 2020)**

DECEMBER, 2022

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**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO THE AFFAIRS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
(2016-2020)**



ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph:

1. Publication of Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the Affairs of the University of Port Harcourt (2016-2020).

2. Citation.

SCHEDULE

**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO
THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
(2016-2020)**

1. The Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the University of Port Harcourt (2016-2020) 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 into
the affairs of
the
University of
Port
Harcourt
(2016-2020).

2. This Notice may be cited as the “White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the University of Port Harcourt (2016-2020)”.

Citation.

1.0. INTRODUCTION**1.1 INAUGURATION OF VISITATION PANEL**

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, represented by the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, on Tuesday, 13th April 2021, inaugurated Presidential Visitation Panels to 38 Federal Universities and 4 Inter-University Centres, among them, the University of Port Harcourt. The Visitation Panels were mandated to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the Universities for two periods: 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. They were given 60 days, from the date of inauguration, to complete and submit their reports.

1.2 COMPOSITION OF THE VISITATION PANEL

The composition of the Visitation Panel to the University of Port Harcourt is as follows :

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------------------|
| (i) | Prof. Auwalu H. Yadudu | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (ii) | Engr. Anietie O. Ekpenyong | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Member</i> |
| (iii) | Prof. O. Aku Timothy Namo | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Member</i> |
| (iv) | Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes-Vivour, SAN | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Member</i> |
| (v) | Ibrahim Zailani, Esq. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Member</i> |
| (vi) | Mrs. Edith Nkemdirin Ugwoke | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Member</i> |
| (vii) | Paschal A. Eruaga, Esq. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <i>Secretary</i> |

1.3. TERMS OF REFERENCE :

The Terms of Reference of the Visitation Panel were to :

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

(ii) look into the leadership quality of each University in terms of the roles of Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellors and other principal officers;

(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 the adequacy of staff and staff development programmes 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 other relationship, i.e. Governing Council, the National Universities Commission and the 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) To examine the general security in the University, how the University has dealt with it and recommend appropriate measures ; and

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

1.4. 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 and Management to ensure that directives of the Visitor in the previous white paper are promptly implemented ;

(ii) Council and Management to urgently implement the recommendations of external auditors ;

(iii) the University should grant adequate independence to Uniport Investment Ltd. ;

(iv) Council to ensure the University's Fixed Asset Register is computerized and regularly updated ;

(v) Council should ensure that the Accounts section is automated;

(vi) Management should establish a Procurement Unit;

(vii) Management to ensure that TETFund projects are monitored and supervised by the Physical Planning and Development Unit ;

(viii) EFCC to investigate all TETFund projects executed between 2016-2020;

(ix) the University should encourage more academic staff to obtain their Ph.D;

(x) Council to engender the review of the University law;

(xi) the Niger Delta Development Commission should complete the NDDC hostel ;

(xii) Management to ensure the furnishing of already completed buildings ;

(*xiii*) Management should pay more attention to the quality of construction work;

(*xiv*) the University to address the imbalance in her staffing ; and

(*xv*) the University to consider and approve, as may be appropriate, its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

TERMOFREFERENCEONE

"Inquire into the level of implementation of the White Paper on the last visitation."

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
2.1.	REPORT ON LAST VISITATION EXERCISE	<p>(i) On the level of implementation of the White Paper of the last Visitation Panel conducted between 2004-2010, there was substantial compliance with the directives of the Visitor. The outstanding items implemented successfully include the following:</p> <p>(ii) Settlement of cases out of court with the setting up of Committee on out-of-court settlement.</p> <p>(iii) Strengthening of collaboration between the University and Choba Police Station.</p> <p>(iv) All donations in kind should be valued and incorporated into the financial statement of the University.</p> <p>(v) The University, in preparing her budgets, should comply with the Standard Guidelines for Distribution and Allocation of Funds provided by NUC.</p> <p>(vi) Regular holding of Council, Senate and Congregation meetings.</p> <p>(vii) Submission of copies of audited accounts to relevant Federal Government Agencies.</p>	<p>(i) The Panel urges the Council and Management to ensure that directives of the Visitor are promptly implemented.</p> <p>(ii) The Federal Government and the Rivers State Government should work together to ensure that settlement of compensation between the University and host communities is done without further delay.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor accepts recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor accepts recommendation (ii) and directs Council to liaise with FME on the matter of the University land and bring it to a logical conclusion.</p>

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REFERENCE TWO

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
3.1.	The Vice-Chancellor	<p>(viii) Demolition of all illegal structures in staff quarters and student hostels.</p> <p>The five directives which were not fully complied with are that :</p> <p>(ix) The University should have a trained procurement specialist to coordinate the procurement function and build capacity of all staff on procurement functions.</p> <p>(x) Donors whose projects have been delayed or abandoned should be contacted and where the University is to complete the project, competitive procurement process must be followed in revising the cost of the project.</p> <p>(xi) Since the University has 58 per cent of its academic staff on Lectureship Grade I and below, attempts should be made to achieve the NUC structure for academic staff which allows for 45 per cent in that group.</p> <p>(xii) The University should continue to encourage academic staff to acquire Ph.D and professional qualifications to meet NUC requirement of 70 per cent.</p>	<p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <p>(i) The Governing Council should maintain its role of providing clear guidance on issues of policy direction for the University.</p> <p>(ii) The Vice-Chancellor should maintain discipline among staff and students.</p> <p>(iii) The Vice-Chancellor should continue to provide excellent leadership to ensure harmonious working relationship with Council, industry, communities and external partners.</p> <p>(iv) There is a need for Council to re-establish the office of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) to cater for the growing needs of research, development and entrepreneurship.</p>	<p><i>Comments</i></p> <p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p> <p>(iii) Visitor notes recommendation (iii).</p> <p>(iv) Visitor accepts recommendation (iv) but observes with dismay the inability of this Panel to address this Task appropriately.</p>
3.2.	The Vice-Chancellor	<p>(xii) The University should continue to encourage academic staff to acquire Ph.D and professional qualifications to meet NUC requirement of 70 per cent.</p>	<p>(i) The Vice-Chancellor should maintain discipline and harmony among staff and students.</p> <p>(ii) Purposeful leadership to ensure harmonious working relationship with</p>	<p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p>

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p>(xiii) The University should make efforts to pay compensation on land without further delay to ensure peaceful coexistence with host communities.</p> <p>(xiv) Payment of compensation should be made to host communities.</p>		

TERM OF REFERENCE TWO

“Look into the leadership quality of the University in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officers.”

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
3.1.	THE GOVERNING COUNCIL	<p>(i) The University had two Governing Councils and two Pro-Chancellors and Chairmen of Council. There was no Council in place for the period 11th December 2019 to 31st December, 2020.</p> <p>(ii) Council ensured successful appointment of a substantive Vice-Chancellor and an acting Vice-Chancellor, three Deputy Vice-Chancellors and other principal officers, improved Internet bandwidth of the University and registration of the University on the NgREN platform.</p>	<p>(i) The Governing Council should maintain its role of providing clear guidance on issues of policy direction for the University.</p> <p>(ii) The Vice-Chancellor should maintain discipline among staff and students.</p> <p>(iii) The Vice-Chancellor should continue to provide excellent leadership to ensure harmonious working relationship with Council, industry, communities and external partners.</p> <p>(iv) There is a need for Council to re-establish the office of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development) to cater for the growing needs of research, development and entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p> <p>(iii) Visitor notes recommendation (iii).</p> <p>(iv) Visitor accepts recommendation (iv) but observes with dismay the inability of this Panel to address this ToR appropriately.</p>
3.2.	THE VICE-CHANCELLOR	<p>(i) The immediate past substantive Vice-Chancellor faced the challenges of office with determination fostering a good working relationship with his deputies. Discipline was maintained, regular meetings held and</p>	<p>(i) The Vice-Chancellor should maintain discipline and harmony among staff and students.</p> <p>(ii) Purposeful leadership to ensure harmonious working relationship with</p>	<p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p>

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p>Deans and Heads of Departments given free hand to administer their departments.</p> <p>(ii) A total of 153 projects were completed as follows: IGR-85, NEEDS-456, Funding and revitalisation of Public Universities-10, Donor Project-13. University ranking by academic performance placed the University as 2nd in Nigeria and 1755th in the world.</p> <p>(iii) In pursuit of his vision for the University to be a world-class centre for research, the Vice-Chancellor established the Centre for Research Management and Development (CEREMAD) by the merger of the Office of the Chairman, Research and Development Board, office of the Vice-Chancellor and Centre for Research Management (CEREM). The Centre was established to ensure effective coordination of research activities in the University, the blueprint for the re-organisation of DPPD for better service delivery.</p> <p>(iv) The leadership of the University and the Council were unable to establish a good working relationship with each other.</p>	<p>Council and other stakeholders should be sustained.</p> <p>(iii) Council should review all pending suits bordering on dismissal or termination of appointments of staff and take appropriate steps to resolve them.</p> <p>(iv) The Council should sustain the efforts aimed at out-of-court settlement to ensure speedy resolution of pending cases</p> <p>(v) Government should ensure that no vacuum exists in vital organs of the University such as the Council in order to ensure good governance.</p>	<p>(iii) Visitor accepts recommendation (iii) and directs urgent action.</p> <p>(iv) Visitor notes recommendation (iv).</p> <p>(v) Visitor notes recommendation (v).</p>

TERMOFREFERENCETHREE

"Look into the financial management of the Institution including statutory allocation, 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</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Comments</i>
4.1.	THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY FINANCE/ SOURCES OF FUNDING	<p>SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE UNIVERSITY</p> <p>The University of Port Harcourt has various sources of income which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) FGN Recurrent Grants (ii) FGN Personnel Grants (iii) FGN Capital Grants (iv) Special Grants (v) Capital Campaign/Endowment (vi) TETFund Grants (vii) Cash Donations (viii) In kind donations (ix) Students Fees/ Levies (x) Investments <p><i>Internally Generated Revenue</i></p> <p>The Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the University was about 40.7 percent of the Federal Government Grants. The centralised and departmentalised IGRs increased significantly while other IGR heads reduced with the introduction of non-statutory fees. The University's IGR is majorly based on stu-</p>	<p>(i) The Internal Audit Unit should review internal control systems for more effective operations and feedback for payments above one million naira to help verify final vote book figures for payment.</p> <p>(ii) Council and Management of the University are enjoined to urgently implement the recommendations of external auditors in order to improve the accounting system of the University.</p> <p>(iii) The University should give adequate independence to Uniport Investment Ltd. to enable the Company operate optimally.</p> <p>(iv) The University should sustain the keeping of records for all donations in cash and kind.</p> <p>(v) The Federal Government should sustain the application of the provisions of the PENCOM Act to staff of the University.</p> <p>(vi) Efforts should be made by the University to computer-</p>	<p>(i) <i>Visitor notes recommendation (i).</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Visitor accepts recommendation (ii) and directs Management to put in place the Procurement Unit in line with the Procurement Act, 2007.</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>Visitor notes recommendation (iii).</i></p> <p>(iv) <i>Visitor notes recommendation (iv).</i></p> <p>(v) <i>Visitor notes recommendation (v).</i></p> <p>(vi) <i>Visitor accepts recommendation (vi).</i></p>

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p>dents' fees.</p> <p><i>Investments by the University</i></p> <p>The University has several investment outfits which are self-financing. These include:</p> <p>(i) University of Port Harcourt Investment Company Ltd.</p> <p>(ii) U&C Micro-finance Bank</p> <p>(iii) Consultancy, Research and Development Company (CORDEC)</p> <p>(iv) Shares in companies</p> <p>(v) Sinking Fund of Endowments</p> <p><i>Manual of Accounting System for Nigerian Universities</i></p> <p>The University uses both the Manual of Accounting Systems for Nigerian Universities and the University of Port Harcourt Financial Guidelines and Accounting Procedures developed in 1997 as key financial accounting guideline documents. Both documents guide the financial operations of the University apart from the financial regulations of the Federal Government of Nigeria.</p>	<p>ise its Fixed Asset Register to improve record-keeping and accessibility.</p> <p>(vii) The Fixed Asset Register should be updated regularly in line with extant practice.</p> <p>(viii) There is need for the Accounts section to be automated as this will make the section more effective, productive and the records will be more accessible in its operation.</p> <p>(ix) The University should facilitate the process of establishing the Procurement Unit in line with the provisions of the Law for effective result.</p>	<p>(vii) Visitor accepts recommendation (vii).</p> <p>(viii) Visitor accepts recommendation (viii).</p> <p>(ix) Visitor accepts recommendation (ix).</p>

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S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p><i>Internal Audit Unit</i></p> <p>The Internal Audit Unit is headed by a Chief Internal Auditor who reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor and other administrative errors are returned to the originator of such financial documents for correction. This is to ensure reliability of financial records and to achieve the objective of checks and balances for which Internal Audit Unit was established. The Unit carried out its other statutory mandates and was effective during the period under review.</p> <p><i>External Audit of the University Accounts</i></p> <p>The University's financial accounting year changed in 2016 to 1st January to 31st December every year. The accounts are audited by external auditors. During the period under review, the accounts were audited by Eddy Ettie and Co Martins and Co Chartered Accountants. The external auditors' reports were presented to the Council of the University for approval and issues raised by the external auditors were forwarded to the Management of the University for implementation. It was ob-</p>		

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p>served that some of the issues raised by the external auditors during the period under review were yet to be addressed and this contributed to delays in carrying out the external audit of the finances of the University.</p> <p><i>The Investment Profile of the University</i></p> <p>The Uniport Investment Ltd. as a limited liability company is independent of the University. It was reported that the Company was healthy from available records as it has cleared all its indebtedness and workers' salaries have been paid to date. However, this information could not be confirmed. It was observed that the independence of the Company was only in relation to financial reporting. The management of the Company was dependent on the University's Council as the University has sole ownership of the Company. In U and C Microfinance Bank, the University has 75 per cent shares in the Bank while the University has 100 per cent shares investment in sinking fund.</p>		

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings	Recommendations	Comments
		<p><i>Recognition of donations in cash and in kind</i></p> <p>The University recognises donations both in cash and kind. A summary of the value of donations in cash and kind are recorded in the Books of Accounts. During the period under review, the University received donations on Professorial Chairs from Malarial Elimination and Phytomedicine Research (N25,000,000.00) and PTFDF (N5 1,522, 423.59) totalling N76,522,423.59 of which N76,352,392.89 has been received and spent leaving a balance of N170,030.70.</p> <p><i>Implementation of External Audit Observations by Management</i></p> <p>It was observed by the Panel that the management report from the external auditor had recurring observations from 2016-2020. The re-occurrence of these observations showed that these observations were not implemented.</p> <p><i>Pension Administration in the University</i></p> <p>The contributory pension scheme is provided for in the Pension Act of 2004. The budgeting system of the Federal Government</p>		

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		<p>provides for direct remittance of pension funds to PENCOM. Records indicated that the University had submitted pension details of all staff to PENCOM and this was transmitted for onward remittance of the pension contribution to staff Pension Fund Administrators. This indicated that the University had fully complied with this requirement for all staff. Issues on double deduction of pension raised by a petitioner were satisfactorily explained by the Bursar to the Panel as also evidenced by salary payment by Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System.</p> <p><i>Fixed Assets Register</i></p> <p>The University has its Fixed Asset Register. It was observed that it was not properly maintained and updated. In addition to the above, the use of hard copy as a method of maintaining the Fixed Asset Register is unwieldy.</p> <p><i>Operation of various units in the Bursary</i></p> <p>The Bursary department is staffed with forty-six professionals. The various sections are headed by professionals who are as-</p>		

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<i>SNo.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Comments</i>
		<p>sisted by other professionals. Records available indicated that the Bursary was operating optimally ; however, it was not fully automated.</p> <p><i>Procurement Process</i></p> <p>The Panel observed that the provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2007 were not strictly adhered to as the University was yet to fully establish a procurement unit.</p>		

