

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

REPORT OF

VISITATION PANEL

TO

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY BIRNIN KEBBI,

KEBBI STATE

(2011-2015)

MAIN REPORT

Volume One

JUNE, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME ONE

Title F	Page		
Table	of Contents		
Acron	yms		
Ackno	wledgements		
Execu	tive Summary		
Chap	oter One		
1.0	Power of the Visitor and Visitation to Nigerian Universities	1	
1.1.1	Preamble	1	
1.2	Composition of the Visitation Panel	1	
1.2.3	Terms of Reference	2	
1.3	Methodology	3	
1.4	Courtesy Visits/Calls	5	
1.5	Table of Minutes	7	
1.6	Establishment and Short History of the University	8	
1.7	Arrangement of Report	10	
Chapter Two			
Term of Reference 1		11	
Chap	oter Three		
Term	of Reference 2		
3.0	The Governing Council	12	
3.1	Findings and Observations	12	
3.1.1	The Governing Council	12	

31.2	The Vice Chancellor	13
3.2	Other Principal officers	14
3.3	Key Recommendations	14
Chap	oter Four	
Term o	of Reference 3	
4.0	Preamble	16
4.1	Structure of Leadership of the Bursary	16
4.2.2	Responsibility	17
4.3	Findings	23
4.3	Key Observations/Findings	24
4.4	Recommendations	26
Chap	oter Five	
Term o	of Reference 4	
5.0	Preamble	28
5.1	Capital Appropriation Projects	28
5.2	TETfund Projects	29
5.3	NEEDS Assessment Intervention	44
5.4	Projects Funds through IGR	47
5.5	Observation and Findings	47
5.6	Recommendations	49
Chap	oter Six	
Term o	of Reference 5	
6.0	Staffing	50
6.1	Academic Staff	50

6.2	Non-Academic Staff	51
6.3	Staff Development	52
6.4	Observation and Findings	52
6.5	Recommendations	52
Cha	pter Seven	
Term	of Reference 6	
7.0	Preamble	53
7.1	Supervision	53
7.2	Planning	55
7.3	Finance	55
7.4	Discipline	56
7.5	Guidance	56
7.6	Other Relationships	57
7.7	Observations/Findings	57
7.8	Recommendations	58
Cha	pter Eight	
Term	of Reference 7	
8.0	Preamble	59
8.1	Implication of lack of Enabling Statute	59
8.2	Effect of the Universities (Miscellaneous) Act 1993 as Amended	60
8.3	Observations and Findings	61
8.4	Reliance of the General Law	64
8.5	Recommendations	65

Chapter Nine

Term	of Reference 8	
9.0	Establishment of the University	66
9.1	Philosophy, Vision and Mission of the University	67
9.2	Location and Commencement of Academic activities	67
9.3	Vice Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor	68
9.4	Faculties and Academic Programmes	68
9.5	Achievements	69
9.6	Stocktaking of the University Problems and Challenges	70
9.7	Style and Sense of Direction of the University	70
9.8	Findings and Observations	71
9.9	Recommendations	71
Cha	pter Ten	
Term	of Reference 9	
10.0	Preamble	72
10.1	Observations and Findings	72
10.2	Recommendations	73
Cha	oter Eleven	
Term	of Reference 10	74
11.0	Observations/Findings	74
11.6	Recommendations	76
11.7	Structure of the Mechanism for Students Discipline	76
Cha	pter Twelve	
12.0 Conclusion		78

ACRONYMS

A&PC Appointment and Promotion Committee

ASUU Academic Staff Union of Universities

BMAS Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards

BOT Build-Operate-and- Transfer

CBN Central Bank of Nigeria

CHS College of Health Sciences

CONTISS Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Structure

CP Commissioner of Police

CSO Chief Security Officer

DSS Directorate of State Services

DSA Dean of Student Affairs

DVC Deputy Vice Chancellor

F&GPC Finance and General Purpose Committee

FEC Federal Executive Council

FME Federal Ministry of Education

FUBK Federal University Birnin Kebbi

GCFR Grand Commander of the Federal Republic

HOD Head of Department

ICT Information Communication Technology

ID cards Identity Cards

IGR Internally Generated Revenue

IPPIS Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System

IPSAS Internal Public Sector Accounting Standard

NAAT National Association of Academic Technologists

NASU Non-Academic Staff Union

NUC National Universities Commission

NYSC National Youth Service Corps

OAGF Office of the Accountant General of the Federation

OHCSF Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation

PPP Public Private Partnership

SANU Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities

SDC Students Disciplinary Committee

SPV Special Purpose Vehicle

SRC Students Representative Council

TETfund Tertiary Education Trust fund

TOR Term of Reference

VC Vice Chancellor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the Visitation Panel on Federal University Birnin Kebbi hereby express their gratitude to the Visitor to the University, His Excellency Muhammad Buhari, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, for giving them the opportunity to serve their country in a vital segment of the tertiary education sector.

The Panel would like to thank all those who contributed to making its work a huge success. These include, but not limited to, the former and present Pro Chancellors and Chairmen of Council of the University, past and incumbent Vice Chancellors and their Principal Officers, Provosts, Deans, Heads of Departments and Units and Members of Senate and Executives of Staff unions and the Students Representative Council. Special mention must be made of distinguished stakeholders in the host community of which HE Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, the Executive Governor of Kebbi State stands out or occupies a the prime position. The Panel is also grateful to the Kebbi State Commissioner of Police (Mr Adeleke) and District Head of Kalgo as represented by Alhaji Dangaladima and the Village Heads.

The Panel owes a debt of gratitude to the Visitor for the opportunity to serve. The Panel took pains to execute the assignment dispassionately in order to achieve the overriding objectives for which it was set up. It is therefore the hope and firm belief of members that the findings and recommendations contained in the Report will be useful in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the University system as well as "ascertaining the extent the University has fulfilled its mandate for public good during the period under review". It is our hope that our Report will justify the confidence reposed in us to serve.

Lastly, but most importantly, members express their profound gratitude to the Almighty God (Allah) for imbuing them with the wisdom, expertise and good health to carry out this important assignment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In compliance with the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2003 as amended up till 2012 and by letters Ref. FME/PS/606/C.I/III/183 of 29th March 2021, the Visitor to Federal University Birinin Kebbi, The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, HE Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, constituted a seven-member Visitation Panel to Federal University, Birnin Kebbi. The Panel was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, on 13th April, 2021, and given ten Terms of Reference (see the Main Report). The Panel was required to conduct two visitations: 2011 to 2015 and 2016 to 2020.

The Panel was given sixty (60) days from the day of its inauguration to complete and submit a Report to the Federal Government for necessary action. In order to ensure adequate participation of the University community, members of the host community as well as the general public, the Panel took a number of actions as outlined below:

- Called for memoranda from the public and all stakeholders,
- Visited and undertook campus-wide tour of the University's three campuses,
- Held interactive sessions with the Vice Chancellor(s) and Principal Officers,
- Held interactive sessions with members of Senate and randomly selected members of congregation,
- Held interactive sessions with staff unions and Students Representative Council,
- Paid courtesy call on the Executive Governor of Kebbi Stae, HE Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu,
- Paid courtesy call on the State Commissioner of Police and
- Paid courtesy on Village Heads and the District Head of Kalgo where the University is located.

Information from interactive sessions, memoranda and courtesy calls as well as various documents submitted by officials of the University (Management, Provost, Deans, Heads of Departments, Heads of Units and Unions etc.) provided data or information on various activities of the University analysed. Additional details on methodology used can be found in the Main Report.

The Executive Summary contains the Panels Observations and Findings and the consequent Recommendations. The Executive Summary is arranged according to the Terms of Reference. The Main Report has a total of twelve (12) chapters.

To inquire into the level of implementation of the white paper on the last visitation report.

Federal University Birnin Kebbi was established in 2013. The University is exempted from Term of Reference one due to its year of establishment.

TERM OF REFERENCE 2

To look into the leadership quality of each University in terms of the roles of governing council, the vice chancellors and other principal officers.

3.1 Findings and Observations

3.1.1 **GOVERNING COUNCIL**

- The Panel observed that during the period under review, the University was without a Governing Council until 13th of May, 2015 when the maiden Council meeting was held.
- ii. The lacuna was filled by NUC that provided advisory and technical services as well as authorization and approvals during the period.
- iii. The Governing Council had a one-year tenure in 2015. The Council's single meeting, during the period, was for familiarization of members with University infrastructure and governance architecture. In addition, it affirmed the following:
 - a. the establishment of two take-off Faculties:
 - the appointment of HRM Eze Dr. Cletus Ikechukwu Ilomuanya, Obi of Obinugwu, as Chancellor,
 - c. the establishment of two Council Committees F&GPC and SSEC,
 - d. the examination of 2014 Budget and
 - e. the examination of the financial report from January to May 2015.

3.1.2 THE VICE CHANCELOR

The Vice Chancellor displayed leadership qualities and roles expected of a foundation chief executive starting from ground zero, without physical structures, take off projects and grants during the period. He used a temporary office in NUC for months as he shuttled between Abuja and Birni Kebbi.

The Panel observed that during the teething period, the Vice Chancellor, operating from a one room office on the temporary site demonstrated exemplary leadership in establishing a governance architecture that, among others, ensured the effective take-off.

3.2 OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

- i. The Panel found that the Registrar, Bursar and Librarian are experienced administrators and professionals. Their qualifications, experience and qualities gave room to good quality leadership roles displayed among themselves and to other staff of the University.
- ii. The Panel further noted that asides the VC, other principal officers were in acting capacities during the period (2011-2015), but that did not adversely affect their performance.
- iii. The Principal Officers discharged their responsibilities effectively; hence there were no reports of disaffection among them.

3.3 Key Recommendations:

- i. The Panel recommends that other principal officers viz: Registrar, Bursar, Librarian should continue to support the Vice Chancellor for the effective management of the affairs of the University, even when Councils are not in place.
- ii. The Vice Chancellor and his team should ensure that the University is managed in accordance with the provisions of the law and best practices in general administration and fiduciary management.

- iii. The Principal Officers, with the approval of the Governing Council, should ensure the speedy publication of Staff and Students Handbooks as internal or domesticated rulebooks/guides for effective management.
- iv. The Management should improve on the relationship with land owners in the host Community to ensure land disputes involving the University and extra-University interests are resolved promptly.
- v. The Federal Government should ensure release of approved funds for take-off of new Universities, constraints of budgets and appropriations notwithstanding.
- vi. The Federal Government should get newly approved Vice-Chancellors to undergo short-term management training (virtual or Physical). This is because VCs are experts in academic matters, while proficiency in management may not match their academic prowess.

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

4.3 KEY OBSERVATIONS/FINDINGS

- i. The University started with funding challenges as one of the three Universities established at the same time that had no opportunity of getting take-off projects. This negatively affected its smooth take-off.
- ii. The University at inception had no Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) to depend on. In the preceding years, students' enrolment was small and could not guarantee realisation of stable IGR for the day running of the University.
- iii. Similarly, the maintenance of utility bills became a serious burden similar to the challenges of Budget envelop system.
- iv. The quantum of funds available for research support is low.

4.3.2 **Accounting and Financial Reporting**

The accounting system in the University is yet to be fully computerised. The payroll has been partially computerized. Some records such as cash book and ledgers are kept on stand-alone excel systems. Given the volume of transactions and coupled with the fact that the University is at its early stage of development, we assumed is fairly commendable.

The Panel examined the flow of financial management information within the University to Council, Faculties and Units. The quality and regularity of the management accounts and reports is improving. The final accounts for the period under review i.e. (2014 and 2015) were made available for public and interested individual / organisations and it was equally presented to the Panel for sighting and scrutiny.

The Final account of 2014/2015, however, provides only limited background information and analysis for the period under review. This may not be unconnected with the fact that comparing two years report alone could not provide some of the information required for modern financial analyses or modern accounting and reporting standards.

Our assessments show that the University's internal control system is weak. The information given by the internal Auditor is considered inadequate to examine any weakness on all transactions or operational activities.

4.3.3 **OPERATING RESULT**

Although a total sum of N2.211 billion was received as special intervention fund from TETfund during the year 2015 as against N1.029 billion in 2014, however, the special intervention fund is not reflected in the revenue analysis presented to the Panel due to the fact that the grants are given for specific actions and programmes that the institution must implement under the funding agreement.

4.3.4 BANK RECONCILIATIONS

The cash and banks statements show that bank reconciliation statements were prepared for most of the accounts. The reconciliation statements are in order except for some immaterial differences.

4.3.5 BUDGET AND BUDGETORY CONTROL

Based on the record available to the Panel, the management of the University complied substantially with financial regulation and treasury circular with respect to budget/ approval estimates and actual disbursement.

4.3.6 ACCOUNTING AND RECORD KEEPING

The University's accounting system is backed by a Microsoft Excel program. The program is simple and was considered adequate for the University's current level of financial transaction.

4.3.7 **ACCOUNTING MANUAL**

Panel observed that there is the use/application of manual of Uniform Accounting System for Nigerian Universities published by NUC which, among other benefits provides specifically for some forms of uniformity in the way fund realised by the Universities are accounted for.

4.3.8 INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR)

The Panel found that the quantum of IGR does not match the needs of the expenditure.

The Panel noted and observed that the Federal Government had directed that Universities should source 25% of their Needs from IGR but records show contribution to expenditure is less than 10%.

4.3.9 INTERNAL/EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Panel found a functional Internal Audit Unit is in place in the University. However, it is weak.

The Panel also observed with satisfaction the timing of the External Auditing. The 2014-2015 accounts were prepared and submitted within the stipulated time of law.

The Panel noted that the University had adhered strictly to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federation, National University Commission Act and Federal Government Financial Regulations in their financial transactions

4.4 Recommendations

- i. University Management should step up efforts to maintain the usual monthly bank reconciliations as at when due.
- ii. Management should intensify training for Bursary staff in order to improve capacity for compliance with procedures and regulations.
- iii. University Management should ensure that the fixed asset policy include disposal of non-functional items and the asset register is regularly updated. The fixed asset of the University should be adequately coded and to match each asset with the year of acquisition. The code should be written on them as evidence of ownership.
- iv. Management should adopt the manual of Uniform Accounting and adhere to the principles therein as this would enhance the accuracy and reliability of financial information.
- v. In view of the impending adoption of internal Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) the University needs to develop a comprehensive fixed asset register for effective management and control as contained in External Auditor's Report, 2015.

- vi. Management should ensure that the Bursar initiates plans to improve Financial information management.
- vii. Management should ensure that the Bursar's Quarterly reports to Council include details of the following:
 - Income and Expenditure
 - Cash and Investments
 - Comparative budgets analysis, variance and their explanations and corrective actions.
- viii. Management should ensure speedy implementation of the computerisation of the Bursary and the Registry.
- ix. The Council should expedite action on the approved recruitment of qualified and competent professionals to man the key units in the Bursary. This will involve hiring highly technical and committed staff to man the Department.
- x. Special grants should be made available to the three Universities that took off in 2013 (Federal University Birnin Kebbi inclusive) especially in the area of research and development.

To 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.

5.5 OBSERVATION AND FINDINGS

- i. The University did not receive the initial take-off projects given to other Universities established at the same time
- ii. The Panel observed that the commencement of academic activities was enabled by construction and remodeling of buildings at take-off site.

- iii. The Panel observed the use of Tenders Board for the purpose of strict compliance with the Public Procurement Act.
- iv. The Panel noted efforts of the management in the provision of necessary accommodation for students.
- v. The Panel observed the inability of Federal Government to provide an administrative block, ICT building, two faculty buildings and a library for smooth take-off of the University. (Take-off Projects)
- vi. The Panel found that the construction and remodeling were of high quality.
- vii. The Panel found the projects were critical to the development of the University.
- viii. The Panel found that all the projects were completed to specifications with no records of project abandonment.
- ix. The Panel found the resources catered for the needs of the students which were necessary at inception i.e. Hostels, Lecture Halls and Laboratory.
- x. The Panel found commitment and dedication exhibited by the University Management towards providing functional accounts.
- xi. The Panel found out that there was no disputed or abandoned contract.
- xii. The University did not secure loans or advances from Banks.
- xiii. All payments for contracts are backed by Certificate of Evaluation issued by either the consultant or Directorate of Physical Planning and Development.
- xiv. The University strictly adhered to the Master Plan approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC).
- xv. The University staff composition clearly shows that it has only 4 permanent Professors while the remaining 48 Professors are either on visiting or Sabbatical appointments for which remuneration was provided for.

xvi. The Panel noted the commendable efforts of the University in terms of infrastructural development. However, there are some critical projects such are library, classes, lecture theaters and laboratories which are vital for accreditation.

5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The Panel recommends the provision of the funds for take-off in order to help the Universities realize their mandate.
- ii. The Panel recommends the University to use alternative and cheaper building materials such as burnt bricks, bamboo and prefab without compromising quality.
- iii. The Panel recommends the University to explore accessing donations from corporate organizations like Sokoto Cement Company as corporate social responsibility to reduce construction costs.
- iv. The Panel recommends the University to use the expertise of its staff from the Faculty of Environmental Sciences as consultants to reduce cost of projects.
- v. The Panel strongly recommends that the initial take-off projects be made available to the University.
- vi. The Panel recommends that enough resources or special grants should be released for recruiting permanent professors to boost the Academic standard of the University.

To examine the adequacy of the staff and staff development programms of each University

OBSERVATION AND FINDINGS

- i. The number of lecturers available were not adequate for the programmes.
- ii. Most of the lecturers were on visiting or sabbatical appointments.
- iii. Many of the in-house lecturers went for studies for postgraduate and Masters degrees
- iv. Most of the visiting lecturers came from Zaria and Sokoto.

6.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. There is need to recruit more lecturers.
- ii. The University should depend more on permanent lecturers than visiting or sabbatical staff for consistency and good service delivery.
- iii. Those that were on study leave should be encouraged to finish in good time and return to the University.
- iv. The University should be given a waiver by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) and other appropriate authorities to enable them employ both academic and non-academic staff.

TERM OF REFERENCE 6

To determine the relationship between the University and the various statutory bodies it interacts with according to its law for the purpose of supervision, planning, finance, discipline, guardians and any other relationship (i.e Governing council, NUC and the federal ministry of education (FME).

7.7 Observation/Findings

 The University was established with twelve others by Presidential fiat.

- ii. From inception the University related with statutory bodies.
- iii. The University operated under the guidance of The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions Amendment) Act 2003.
- iv. The University had its first programmes accreditation during the period under review.
- v. The University initial physical projects were constructed during the period under review.
- vi. There was a cordial relationship between the University and different segments of the host Community (Security agencies, Emirate and District Councils and the State Government)

7.8 Recommendation:

- There is a need for the urgent enactment of the Basic Law of the University.
- ii. The University should maintain the good pace of presenting academic programmes for successful accreditation by NUC.
- iii. There should be more funds provided for the University as a young and growing institution.

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.

8.3 OBSERVATION AND FINDINGS

8.3.1 **OBSERVATION**

- i. The Federal University Birnin Kebbi is not a creation of statute and therefore lacks any legal authority for its existence. It is not gifted with Basic Statute of its own and therefore exists as a University only in practical terms, but not as a legal entity.
- ii. Unlike any Federal University in Nigeria which relies on its own Basic Law for the various organs to carry out its functions, this University lacks any statutory support for achieving the objects of its creation. The Federal University Birnin Kebbi can only function legally, along the lines delimited by the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act as amended up till 2012.
- iii. In spite of these limitations, the Principal Officers, and other officers are known to be applying themselves creditably to the demands of their office, and the various organs and Unit are known to be achieving results with dedication and commitment.
- iv. Although observation reveals that there exists a compendium, in two volumes entitled, <u>Academic Brief</u>, to guide the various organs/units in their interactions, the content of the said <u>Academic Brief</u> is, at best, a rule of practical convenience and can never be a substitute for the much needed University Act.
- v. The Panel notes the anxiety of critical stakeholders, *inter alia*, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) that this University is not a creation of statute with the implication that:
- a) "The University can neither sue nor can it be sued"

- b) The appointments and promotion in the University are not supported by the Act of the University that is non-existent.
- c) "The Certificate issued by the University is not backed by any enabling law." This is captured in the Memo submitted by ASUU.
- vi. The Panel notes the efforts of appropriate Government agencies in trying to enact the Federal University Birnin Kebbi Act (which is said to have passed the third reading in the National Assembly).

8.3.2 **FINDINGS**

The Panel is persuaded that the University (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, as amended, does not cover the many functions, organs and units of this University unlike what obtains in a Federal University with its Basic Law. It is therefore lacking in the following ways.

- a) This University is not a body corporate having perpetual succession and Common Seal with power to sue and be sued, and the Council cannot determine the Seal of the University;
- b) It has no legal direction as to the object of its existence;
- c) It can only entertain a rebuttable presumption of the legal functions of the University;
- d) It has no legal authority for the functions of the Chancellor;
- e) It does not have a legal authority for the functions of the Council of the University with regards to its Finance and General Purposes Committee;
- f) It cannot appreciate the detailed legal function of the Senate;
- g) It has no legal authority for the recognition of the Visitor of a Federal University as the President because this is only defined in the Basic Law of each University;
- h) Not being a creation of statute, it is unknown to this University, the rigid rule of fair hearing in the determination of the appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors or any other person employed as a senior

- member of staff of the academic, administrative, technical professional staff of the University;
- The grave implication is that these categories of staff are to be treated like the employees in the private sector who can be sacked for good or for bad reasons or for no reason at all;
- j) The University lacks any legal authority to discipline any student by the Vice-Chancellor "whenever it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that the said student has been guilty of misconduct;
- k) It lacks any legal authority for the appointment of the many Committees of the University, which constitute the bedrock for the University administration;
- I) It lacks any legal authority for the organization of academic work of the University, amongst other areas.

8.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends as follows:

- 1. The urgent enactment of the Basic Law of the University. This would operate to:
- i. confer a legal status on the University so as to be capable of fulfilling its legal obligations to stakeholders;
- ii. make the University have the capacity to sue or be sued in its own name in respect of any failed contractual transaction;
- remove all senior employees as in other Federal Universities, from the categories of employment premised on mere master and servant relationship;
- iv. guarantee to all senior employees, a protected employment that is savoured with statutory flavor. This would entitle the said employees to the right to a fair hearing when relationship with the University falls on difficult times;
- v. give the Vice-Chancellor the authority to exercise disciplinary over student

- 2. The urgent need for the Basic Law of the University can also be appreciated when it is realized that the critical stakeholders have themselves identified that the University lacks any authority to issue Certificates. This Basic Law when enacted would operate to water down the anxiety which may result into unhealthy industrial relations.
- 3. The Panel recommends a quick passage of the Law to establish the Federal University Birnin Kebbi Act and also recommends the stakeholders' appeal that University be named Abdullahi Danfodiyo University.

It is submitted that whatever preserves in existence the lack of University Basic Law could foist on the University, a situation pregnant with regrettable consequences.

TERM OF REFERENCE 8

To trace the historical evolution of the University and take stock of its net achievement and problem as well as its style and direction.

9.8 FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

- **i.** The University at inception did not have adequate infrastructure and conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning.
- **ii.** Staff (Academic and Non-academic) were inadequate.
- iii. The University had issues with funds to carry out its activities.
- **iv.** The efforts of the pioneer management to stand the University in good stead became apparent.

9.9 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel recommends:

i. The need for provision of infrastructure, conducive for teaching, research and learning in the University.

- ii. Recruitment of experienced and qualified academic and non-academic staff to enable it stand on sound and qualitative footing and
- iii. Adequate funding to enable the University carry out its activities meaningfully should be provided.

To examine the general security in the University and how the University has dealt with it and recommended appropriate measures

10.1 OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

- I. The Chief Security Officer (CSO) is an indigene of the state and is familiar with the terrain which has come to bear on the security architecture put in place. The University has 50 Security personnel, which is grossly inadequate for effective security control. The personnel operates in two (2) shifts instead of the normal 3 shifts making the job cumbersome. The security officers are deployed to three (3) locations namely: University Take-Off Site, University Permanent Site, and Vice Chancellor's Lodge with two supervisors taking charge of each location.
- II. The University does not have reports of vandalization, kidnapping, rape, or any form of molestation.
- III. The major security issue is the herdsmen that use the University land for grazing even at very late hours. The Police have intervened several times, but they have not stopped. This amounts to encroachment on University land.
- IV. The University's permanent site perimeter fence is made of chain link, which does not guarantee adequate security.
- V. The Security Division has a very good synergy with other security agencies within the Local Government.
- VI. The remaining 25% percent of the University land is in contention due to non-payment of compensation to the land owners. This is an impediment to comprehensive security of the University.

VII. There are no female security personnel to take care of the female students in the hostels and there are not enough security officers to man the vast land of the University.

10.2 Recommendations

- i. The University should engage more security officers to take care of the vast land of the University, protect the infrastructure, the students, and staff.
- ii. Female Security personnel should be recruited and trained to man the female hostels.
- iii. There should be training for the security guards to understand the trending Security threats in educational institutions and how to combat the menace.
- iv. The University should, in collaboration with the Police, organise security tips and drills for students and staff on measures to forestall cases of abduction and kidnaping by bandits and kidnappers.
- v. There should be a security alarm system in the University to scare criminals should they invade the campuses of the University.
- vi. The University should deploy Information Technology based security measures to complement the existing security apparatus.
- vii. The strategy of working in concert with other security agencies in the state and Local Government, through regular meetings and information sharing, should be strengthened.

TERM OF REFERENCE 10

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

11.0 **Observations/ Findings**

11.1 Federal University Birnin Kebbi admitted its first set of 507 students in the 2014/15 Session. The first Matriculation Ceremony took place on 5th March 2015. The students were matriculated in the following Faculties and Programmes:

Table 12

Faculty of Arts, Social and Management Sciences				
S/N	Programme	Number Matriculated		
i.	B.A. English Language	28		
ii.	B.A. History and International Studies	3		
iii.	B.Sc. Accounting	19		
iv.	B.Sc. Business Administration	23		
٧.	B.Sc. Demography and Social Statistics	22		
vi.	B.Sc. Economics	25		
vii.	B.Sc. Geography	20		
viii.	B.Sc. Political Science	46		
ix.	B.Sc. Sociology	41		
	Sub-total	227		
Facu	ulty of Science	-		
S/N	Programme	Number Matriculated		
i.	B.Sc. Biochemistry	32		
ii.	B.Sc. Biology	34		
iii.	B.Sc. Chemistry	24		
iv.	B.Sc. Industrial Chemistry	23		
٧.	B.Sc. Computer Science	27		
vi.	B.Sc. Geology	31		
vii.	B.Sc. Applied Geophysics	26		
viii.	B.Sc. Mathematics	15		
ix.	B.Sc. Microbiology	31		
х.	B.Sc. Physics with Electronics	18		
xi.	B.Sc. Statistics	19		
	Sub-total	280		
	Total	507		

- 11.2 The University set up a Deanship of Student Affairs under the office of the Vice Chancellor from 2014 upon the commencement of academic activities. The terms of reference of this division are:
 - a. To see to the welfare of students.
 - b. To offer career guidance and counseling.
 - c. To offer a line of communication with the Vice Chancellor and
 - d. To develop leadership skills in students.
- The Panel found that the Division caters for accommodation, career guidance, as well as recreational and sporting activities of students. In addition, the Division is also responsible for the welfare and discipline of students without prejudice to the functions of the Students Disciplinary Committee (SDC), the Senate and the Vice Chancellor. It also takes care of students needs such as scholarships, bursaries and counseling services.
- 11.3 The Panel found that the University inherited 3 blocks of student hostels at the Take-off campus. Each block had a capacity to accommodate 128 students which brings total capacity to 384 bed spaces. Two blocks were allocated to male students and one block to female students. During this period, accommodation was almost sufficient as 76% could be accommodated.
- 11.4 The Panel found that the division ensures that repairs are carried out promptly to avoid further escalation of any damage that might occur at the hostels.
- 11.5 The first Vice Chancellor established Prize and Scholarship for students that excelled academically. Sometimes, this would entail paying back registration fees to such students depending on resources available to the University. Such a reward system encouraged compliance with regulations and promote healthy competition among students.

11.6 **Recommendations**

- i. In view of the expected increase in number of students, the University should enter into arrangement with private sector investors (developers) on BOT basis, to provide congenial environment for students to live in.
- ii. The University should continue the policy of ensuring prompt repairs of hostels and other buildings/facilities in the University.
- iii. The neat and attractive layout of the University should be maintained.
- iv. The BOT arrangement should be extended to cover transportation.

11.7 The Structure of the Mechanism for Students Discipline: Observations and Findings

Student discipline is handled by the Student Affairs Division in the Vice-Chancellor's Office. This is done through the Student Disciplinary Committee (SDC) which handles general misconduct other than examination misconduct issues.

Student disciplinary issues are captured in the Students Handbook page 84 entitled *General Conduct* and the procedures well laid out on pages 88 and 89 of the aforesaid documents.

The Panel finds that the SDC rarely sits because there were not many cases requiring their attention.

11.8 Recommendations

- i. The Panel recommends that the University should sustain the arrangement to ensure that the University remains a conducive learning environment.
- ii. The disciplinary measures contained in the Students Handbook are to be encouraged so long as they are not at variance with statutory provisions for the time being in force.