



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Views of the Government of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the
Visitation Panel Report into the Affairs of the
Nigerian Arabic Language Village,
Ngala, Borno State
(2016 - 2020)**

DECEMBER, 2022

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**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO THE AFFAIRS OF
THE NIGERIAN ARABIC LANGUAGE VILLAGE, NGALA, BORNO STATE
(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 Nigerian Arabic Language Village,
Ngala, Borno State (2016–2020)

2. Citation.

SCHEDULE

**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO
THE AFFAIRS OF THE NIGERIAN ARABIC LANGUAGE VILLAGE,
NGALA, BORNO STATE (2016–2020)**

1. The Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the Nigerian Arabic Language Village, Ngala, Borno State (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 Nigerian
Arabic
Language
Village,
Ngala, Borno
State (2016–
2020).

2. This Notice may be cited as the “White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the Nigerian Arabic Language Village, Ngala, Borno State (2016–2020)“.

Citation.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PREAMBLE

The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, in exercise of the powers conferred on him as Visitor to the Federal Universities and Inter-University Centres, approved the constitution of Visitation Panels to Federal Universities and Inter-University Centres. Consequently, the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, ably represented by Architect Sonny Echono, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education inaugurated the Visitation Panels on 13th April, 2021, at the Idris Abdulkadir Auditorium, National Universities Commission, Abuja.

1.2. COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL

The Presidential Visitation Panel to the Nigerian Arabic Language Village, Ngala, Borno State comprised the following:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Professor Bawa Hassan Gusau | <i>Chairman</i> |
| 2. | Professor Bagoni Alhaji Bukar | <i>Member</i> |
| 3. | Professor Umar Dahiru | <i>Member</i> |
| 4. | Tpl. Attahiru, Edmund Sule.. .. . | <i>Member</i> |
| 5. | Mr. Johnson O. Ogbeche | <i>Member</i> |
| 6. | Professor Abdulfatah Awoyinwola | <i>Member</i> |
| 7. | Alhaji Shehu Ahmad Rufa'i | <i>Secretary</i> |

1.3. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

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

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

(iii) 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;

(iv) 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;

(v) To examine the adequacy of the staff and staff development programmes of each University;

(vi) 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, guidance and any other relationship

(i.e., the Governing Council, NUC, and the Federal Ministry of Education (FME));

(vii) 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;

(viii) To 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 and how the University has dealt with it, and recommend appropriate measures ; and

(x) To examine the processes and structures of discipline of students in each 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 should ensure that Management complies with financial guidelines and regulations at all times;

(ii) Council should ensure the release of funds to contractors based on actual work carried out ;

(iii) Council should direct Management to implement External Auditors' recommendation on accounting software without delay ;

(iv) EFCC to investigate the utilization of ₦250,000,000.00 special intervention fund ;

(v) Council should address the high non-academic to academic staff ratio; and

(vi) Governing Council should ensure that a Student Disciplinary Committee is established.

TERM OF REFERENCE ONE

"To inquire into the level of implementation of the White Paper of the last Visitation Report (2004–2010)."

<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>
2.0.	TO INQUIRE INTO THE LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER OF THE LAST VISITATION REPORT (2004–2010).	<p>(i) During the period under review, a total of eight (8) directives were fully implemented while another eight (8) were partly implemented.</p> <p>(ii) A total of 20 directives were not implemented.</p>	Management to ensure full implementation of the Visitor's directives.	<i>Visitor notes the low level of implementation and directs Council to ensure full implementation without further delay.</i>

TERMOFREFERENCE TWO

"To look into the leadership quality of the Nigerian Arabic Language Village in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Director/CEO 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>
3.0.	THE DIRECTOR/CEO	<p>The five (5) year tenure of Professor Muhammed Muazu Nguru, which commenced on 18/04/2014, coincided with the time when the Village relocated to its liaison office in Maiduguri following the attack and destruction of its facilities in Ngala. The relocation of the Village to Maiduguri adversely affected academic and other activities during the period under review. The Village is now temporarily sited at its liaison office on Lagos Street, Maiduguri. The liaison office lacks facilities for students and staff as it was not meant to be a place for teaching. All the same, the Management converted some of the facilities into offices, in order to accommodate staff and students. Even at that, the facilities are grossly inadequate, hence, the Village purchased a 6000 sq.m land along Bama road where a 200-bed capacity hostel, and a 500-seat capacity lecture hall, are being constructed. (See ToR 3 and 4 for details of capital projects).</p> <p>During Professor Muhammad Muazu's</p>		<i>Visitor notes these observations/findings.</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>tenure, substantive Registrar and Bursar were appointed for the Village (treated in 2011-2015). Professor Muhammad Muazu listed his achievements to include introduction of minutes book, acquisition of vehicles for the Village, employment of staff, purchase of a plot of land (Report of achievement presented to the Panel as Annexure B). The Panel is not impressed with some of these achievements as they are mostly matters relating to day-to-day management, which should not be considered as achievements in the real sense.</p> <p>P r o f e s s o r Muhammad Muazu's five (5) year term ended in 2019, and he was succeeded by Dr Musa KalimAlkali (29th April, 2019 to October 2020) as an acting Director. The Acting Director listed his achievements to include renting and furnishing of a flat for the Village at Abuja, FCT at a cost of ₦31,000,000.00 (thirty-one million Naira), established pure water factory, initiated the construction of a student Hostel at the Bama Road annex, Maiduguri. In late 2020, a substantive Director in</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>
3.1.	THE REGISTRAR AND THE BURSAR	<p>the person of Professor Muhammed Sani Abdulmumini was appointed. He only served for about five months as the Director/CEO of the Village. The Panel did not interact with him because he did not respond to the Panel's invitation and no record was made available to the Panel to assess his achievement, leadership style and quality during his brief term in office.</p> <p>The Registrar and the Bursar were both appointed by Council on 27th May, 2015 following interviews that took place on the 6th and 7th May, 2015. The advertisement for the posts of Bursar and Registrar required prospective candidates to hold a good university degree and at least 15 years post qualification experience with a minimum of five years as Deputy Registrar in the University System respectively. None of these officers had the qualifications and experience required for the two exalted positions. All the same, Council went ahead and conducted interviews following which Bursar and Registrar were appointed.</p>		
3.2.	LIBRARIAN	<p>The Village had a library in Ngala which was</p>		

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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>
		headed by a Librarian with a BLS degree from the University of Maiduguri, who has been in acting capacity since 2010. The library had over ten thousand volumes of books up to 2013. However, because of the insurgency, which affected the Ngala Campus, a substantial number of books were destroyed/ stolen. About 7000 volumes were later recovered and salvaged, and were being sorted out at the time of writing this report.		

TERM OF REFERENCE THREE

"To look into the financial management of the Village 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>
4.0.	STATUTORY ALLOCATION FOR 2016:	<p>(a) All the procurement processes leading to the award of the contracts were complied with by management ;</p> <p>(b) The ongoing projects were roll-overs from the 2014 appropriation;</p> <p>(c) In Management Letter of 2nd August, 2018 for the period ended 31st December, 2016, External Auditors had observed lapses in the accounting system, procedures, internal controls and financial guidelines and regulations.</p>	Council should ensure that Management complies with financial guidelines and regulations at all times.	<i>Visitor accepts this recommendation.</i>
4.1.	STATUTORY ALLOCATION FOR 2017:	<p>(a) All the procurement processes leading to the award of the contracts were complied with by management.</p> <p>(b) Purchase of two Jeep Toyota Highlanders, 2011/2012 model which are currently being used by the Registrar and the Bursar were physically confirmed;</p> <p>(c) Store receipts acknowledging the two vehicles also confirmed by the Stores officer ;</p> <p>(d) some transactions, such as the purchase of land in</p>	<p>(i) Council should ensure that the legal unit is involved in any future transactions on land matters for the Village;</p> <p>(ii) Council should ensure that proper documentation is made on the land purchased by the Village in Maiduguri ;</p> <p>(iii) Council should further ensure that the Director/CEO complies with extant regulations on spending limit for goods and services.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</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>Maiduguri by the Village, was not documented ;</p> <p>(e) in transactions (b) and (c) above, the Director/CEO exceeded his spending threshold without Council's approval ;</p> <p>(f) the legal unit of the Village was not involved in the whole process of the land purchase.</p>		
42.	STATUTORY ALLOCATION FOR 2018	<p>(a) As in 2017 (a) above;</p> <p>(b) The External Auditors observed in the 2017 Management Letter report that the Village did not implement the Auditors' 2016 recommendation to acquire and install accounting software package for the processing of accounting and payroll activities.</p>	<p>(i) The Council should ensure the release of funds to contractors based on actual work carried out ;</p> <p>(ii) As a matter of urgency, Council should direct Management to implement External Auditors' recommendation on accounting software without delay.</p>	<i>Visitor accepts these recommendations.</i>
43.	STATUTORY ALLOCATION FOR 2019	<p>(a) All the 5 Nos. contracts were awarded in January 2019, except for that of supply of furniture for the Principal Officers, which was awarded in September 2019.</p> <p>(b) The releases for the year under review were low, which could have accounted for the remaining four contracts being captured in the 2020 budget appropriation for completion.</p>		<i>Visitor notes these observations/findings.</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>
4.4.	STATUTORY ALLOCATION FOR 2020	<p>(a) The Panel found that the capital appropriation to the Village was utilized fully. No project was completed in 2020;</p> <p>(b) The four projects awarded in 2019 were captured in 2021 budget.</p>		<i>Visitor notes these observations/findings.</i>
4.5. 4.6.	IGR GENERATED IN 2016 IGR GENERATED IN 2017	<p>(a) The expenditure was mostly incurred on :</p> <p>(i) unnecessary expenses, such as feeding allowances and hotel accommodation, as a result of payments made to ineligible staff of the Village (non-academic);</p> <p>(ii) allowances for security of the facilities used as outreach centers;</p> <p>(iii) payment of percentage to the schools hosting the outreach programme;</p> <p>(iv) Duty Tour Allowance (DTA) to visiting supervisors, a duplication of (a)(i). above ;</p> <p>(b) The expenditure as in above, rendered the programme somewhat costly to the Village ;</p> <p>(c) The IGR was generated from only eight outreach centers operated by the Village.</p>	<p>(i) As in recommendation (a) for the year 2017 above ;</p> <p>(ii) The size of staff involved in supervising the programmes should be limited to academic staff who teach the courses under the programmes only;</p> <p>(iii) Council should direct Management to step up efforts to increase the number of students' intake and explore other avenues for the outreach programmes.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</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>
4.7.	IGR GENERATED IN 2018	<p>(a) the IGR source followed the same pattern as that of the preceding year.</p> <p>(b) the bulk of the revenue during this period accrued from sub-degree registrations.</p>	Management should endeavour to expand the sources of internally generated revenue beyond registration fees for sub-degree courses.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
4.8.	IGR GENERATED IN 2019	The Village did not tighten up loose ends, such that the entire meagre IGR was expended as in 2017(a) above.	Governing Council should direct management to devise practicable cost-cutting measures in order for the Village to utilize the IGR to augment shortfalls in statutory allocations.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
4.9.	IGR GENERATED IN 2020	<p>(a) the already meagre IGR realized by the Village plummeted, perhaps the deepest in the Village's history;</p> <p>(b) this was attributed to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic that prevented all activities throughout the country ;</p> <p>(c) all admissions for 2020 were limited to NCE and Diploma programmes.</p>	As in 2018 (a) above.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE FOUR

"To investigate the application of funds, particularly the special grants and loans meant for specific projects in order to determine the status of each project 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>
50.		<p>(a) During the period underreview, the Village received the sum of (N250,000,000.00) as special intervention from the Federal government.</p> <p>(b) There were no records of what the money was expended on.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor should cause an investigation into the utilization of (N250,000,000.00) special intervention fund.</p> <p>(ii) the erring officers should be sanctioned.</p>	<p><i>Visitor accepts recommendations (i) and (ii) and directs EFCC to investigate the utilization of N250,000,000.00 special intervention fund.</i></p>

TERM OF REFERENCE FIVE

“To examine the adequacy of staff and staff development programmes of the Nigerian Arabic Language Village, Ngala.”

<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>
60.	STUDENTS' ADMISSIONS	<p>(a) The Village still lacked a well-defined and articulate academic staff development programme, outside promotion, that can guarantee retention and stability of quality academic staff during the period under review.</p> <p>(b) Continued absence of an enabling law has hampered staff development of the Village.</p> <p>(c) The staff-student ratio was high and inconsistent with NUC (BMAS) for Arts (including Language studies) in Nigerian universities, leading to inadequacy of the staff teaching the programmes.</p> <p>(d) Although the promotions of the six (6) Senior Lecturers to the Professorial Cadre, as Readers, in 2019 were based on alleged guidelines from the University of Maiduguri, yet there was clear absence of procedures used to apply the guidelines in the promotions.</p>	<p>(i) The Governing Council should push for the passage of the Bill pending before the National Assembly to guide the operations of the Village;</p> <p>(ii) Efforts should be adopted and intensified to recruit more academic staff in order to narrow the wild gap between academic and non-academic staff, and ensure the Village's effective delivery of its mandate.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor accepts recommendation (ii).</p>
61.	ADEQUACY OF ACADEMIC STAFF			
62.	STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES			

TERM OF REFERENCE SIX

"To determine the relationship between Nigerian Arabic Language Village 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 the Village may have in dealing with the said bodies including the Village Governing Council, the National Universities Commission and the Federal Ministry of Education."

<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>
7.0.	GOVERNING COUNCIL.	During the period under review, the Village interacted with various statutory bodies in accordance with the laws establishing those bodies for the purposes of policy guidance, direction, etc.	(i) The Village should continue interacting with regulatory bodies for guidance and direction ; (ii) Efforts should be made to ensure that the regulatory agencies, NUC, NCCE and FME issue directives mandating Universities that offer B.A. Arabic to patronize Immersion programme and acculturation programmes of the Village.	(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i). (ii) Visitor accepts recommendation (ii).
7.1.	NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION			
7.2.	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION			
7.3.	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE			
7.4.	THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION(NCCE)			

TERM OF REFERENCE SEVEN

"To examine the law establishing the Nigerian Arabic Language Village 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>SNo.</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>
80.		<p>(a) The Village claims to be guided by the Civil Service Rules, University of Maiduguri Act, rules and regulations ;</p> <p>(b) The absence of an enabling law has made it difficult for the Village to coordinate its activities and properly relate with private and public bodies, and organisations with a view to realizing the objectives for which it was established.</p>	<p>(i) The Governing Council should step up efforts at ensuring that the Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Arabic Language Village currently before the National Assembly is passed into law;</p> <p>(ii) In the interim, the Governing Council should adopt and apply mutatis mutandis relevant provisions of the University of Maiduguri Act and regulations, especially in matters of staff appointments, promotion and discipline.</p>	<p>(a) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(b) Visitor rejects recommendation (ii) and directs the Village to adopt the Government rules and regulations.</p>

TERMOFREFERENCEEIGHT

"To trace the historical evolution of the Nigerian Arabic Language Village 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>
90.			<p>(i) The Village Governing Council and Management should liaise with relevant authorities to facilitate the passage of the enabling law pending at the National Assembly.</p> <p>(ii) The leadership should be open and carry everyone along in running the affairs of the Village.</p> <p>(iii) Though the Village has relocated to the liaison office in Maiduguri, efforts should be made to link up the Village with the National grid.</p> <p>(iv) The Village should collaborate with the relevant government agencies to facilitate the construction of the access road from the State capital to the Village at Ngala.</p> <p>(v) Promotion of deserving staff should be based on criteria for appointment and promotion as approved by the Governing Council.</p> <p>(vi) The Village should fashion out a comprehensive strategy for all programmes that will enhance enrolment drive.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE NINE

"To examine the general security in the Nigerian Arabic Language Village Ngala and how it 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.	FUNCTIONS OF THE SECURITY UNIT	<p>(a) The current number of the Security personnel in the Liaison office is less than the number of those engaged in Ngala. This is understandable, considering the size and location of the Liaison Office.</p> <p>(b) Personnel in the Security Unit, including the head, have no military or para-military training hence, their ability to effectively manage crime is limited.</p> <p>(c) Most of the operatives engaged in securing the Village are more of "Guardsmen".</p>	<p>(i) The Head of the Security Unit should be a retired military or police officer, not below the rank of Major or DCP respectively.</p> <p>(ii) Security Operatives should have a minimum qualification of ND.</p> <p>(iii) The Security Unit should be under the Office of the Director/CEO.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE TEN

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

<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>
11.0.		<p>(a) The Village did not establish any structure for student discipline ;</p> <p>(b) The few cases that came up were settled at the lower level.</p>	<p>The Governing Council should ensure that a Student Disciplinary Committee is established under the office of the Director and all records of the activities of the committee should be kept securely for record purposes.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i></p>

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

MUHAMMADU BUHARI, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria