



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Views of the Government of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
on the
Visitation Report into the Affairs of the
National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba,
Abia State
(2011- 2015)**

DECEMBER, 2022

PRINTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRINTER, LAGOS.

**WHITEPAPERONTHEREPORTOFTHEVISITATIONPANELINTO THEAFFAIRS
OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NIGERIAN LANGUAGES, ABA, ABIASTATE
(2011 - 2015)**



ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph:

1. Publication of Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the Affairs of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State (2011 - 2015)

2. Citation.

SCHEDULE

**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO
THE AFFAIRS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NIGERIAN
LANGUAGES, ABA, ABIA STATE
(2011 - 2015)**

1. The Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State (2011 - 2015) as provided in the schedule to this Notice is hereby published in the Federal Government Gazette.

Publication
of the Federal
Government
White Paper
on the
Report of
the Visitation
Panel into
the affairs of
the National
Institute for
Nigerian
Languages,
Aba, Abia
State (2011 -
2015).

2. This Notice may be cited as the "White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State (2011 - 2015)."

Citation.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PREAMBLE

The Presidential Visitation Panels to the Federal Universities and Inter-University Centres in the country were inaugurated on Tuesday, 13th April, 2021, by the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Arc. Sonny Echono, at the Idris Abdulkadir Auditorium, National Universities Commission (NUC), Maitama, Abuja.

1.2. COMPOSITION OF THE PANEL

Members of the Visitation Panel to the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba were :

- (i) Prof. Julius Afolabi Faiola *Chairman*
- (ii) Prof. Kevin Nwogu *Member*
- (iii) Mrs. Rachel Hassan-Olajokun *Member*
- (iv) Prof. Patricia Lar *Member*
- (v) Dr. Comfort Oko *Member*
- (vi) Mrs. Ifeoma Uzokwe.. .. . *Member*
- (vii) Mr. Theophilus Ogor *Secretary*

1.3. 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) look into the leadership quality of the Inter-University Centre, in terms of the roles of the governing council, the vice-chancellors/executive directors and other principal officers ;

(iii) look into the financial management of the institution, including statutory allocation 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 the staff and staff development programmes ;

(vi) determine the relationship between the Inter-University Centre and the various statutory bodies it interacts with according to its law for purposes of supervision, planning, finance, discipline, guidance and any other

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

(vii) examine the law establishing the Inter-University Centre 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 modifications to the law ;

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

(ix) examine the general security in the Inter-University Centre and how the centre has dealt with it, and recommend appropriate measures ; and

(x) examine the processes and structures of discipline of students in the Inter-University Centre 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) Government to take decisive action against any of its appointees on governing councils of institutions who exercises powers not appropriated to them by law;

(ii) Government to terminate the tenure of the Governing Council of any institution found to be engaged in internal wrangling among them ;

(iii) there is need for a Council/Inter-University Management retreat for accelerated development ; and

(iv) Government institutions should adhere to the rule of law and should not delay the implementation of a court order except where the judgement is being appealed.

TERM OF REFERENCE ONE

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

<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.		<p>The Visitation Panel is to report that the National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN), Aba was last visited by a Presidential Visitation Panel in the year 2000. The Institute was not visited in the last visitation covering 2006-2010. Even for the year 2000 visitation, efforts of the Panel in the search for the White Paper, both at the Institute and the Federal Ministry of Education Headquarters, Abuja did not yield any result.</p> <p>Consequently, the Panel had no information to report on the level of implementation of the White Paper on the last Visitation Report covering 2006-2010.</p>		<p><i>Visitor notes the observations of the Panel.</i></p>

TERMOFREFERENCETWO

"To look into the leadership quality of each University/Inter-University Centre, in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellors/Executive Directors and other Principal Officers."

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
3.1.	THE GOVERNING COUNCIL	<p>(i) The Council was able to set up a Management Committee to fill the vacuum created during the ceding of NINLAN to UNN.</p> <p>(ii) The Council was able to set up a new account for NINLAN Demonstration Secondary School (NDSS) while awaiting the formal hand over by Professor Clara Ikekeonwu.</p> <p>(iii) Professor Ben Elugbe was reinstated as Executive Director by the order of court.</p> <p>(iv) The promise of the Council members to cooperate with one another after the meeting with the Executive Secretary NUC could not stand because of personal interests.</p> <p>(v) Due to the crises in the Council, NINLAN lost the leadership often provided by the Governing Council and Principal Officers for guidance for meaningful achievement of its goals. This also affected the academic programmes and development of infrastructure.</p> <p>(vi) The Panel expressed serious concern at the government's inability to take a deci-</p>	<p>(i) At the point of inauguration, the Council members should be adequately exposed to their responsibilities and the limits of their powers.</p> <p>(ii) Government appointees should not be allowed to exercise powers not appropriated to them by law in the exercise of their duties.</p> <p>(iii) Government should take decisive action against any of its appointees on governing councils of institutions who exercises powers not appropriated to him/her bylaw.</p> <p>(iv) Government should terminate the tenure of the Governing Council of any institution found to be engaged in internal wrangling among them.</p> <p>(v) There is a need for a Council/Inter-University Management retreat midwived by the Federal Government for accelerated development.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i></p>

B 10

<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>sive action against members of Council who arrogated powers to themselves.</p>		
32.	LEADERSHIP QUALITY/ROLES	<p>(i) Before the reinstatement of Prof. Ben Elugbe, the Executive Director, there was an Interim Coordinator in the person of Dr. Azubuike Ikediashi pending clarification of the Court judgement by the Council.</p> <p>(ii) There was no Registrar, only an interim Head of Registry.</p> <p>(iii) The Bursar at the point of the taking over of NINLAN by UNN was reinstated to complete his term of six months.</p> <p>(iv) There was no professional and career librarian. The library was ill-equipped and in a bad state with largely outdated resources.</p>	<p>(i) Government institutions should adhere to the rule of law and should not delay the implementation of court order except where the judgement is being appealed.</p> <p>(ii) An Inter-University Centre as NINLAN should have a Librarian at career post.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor accepts recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p>

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.	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	<p>(i) The Institute's main sources of IGR were the NINLAN Secondary School and the Guest House.</p> <p>The funds so generated were appropriately deployed in the rehabilitation of the facilities at the City Campus, and payment of salaries of staff of NINLAN Secondary School.</p> <p>(i) Many of the payment vouchers were not signed by designated authorising officer(s).</p> <p>(ii) The Institute did not receive any Investment Bonus, Dividends and Interests during the period under review.</p>	<p>(i) The Management should be commended for the judicious use of the resources.</p> <p>(ii) The sources of IGR should be further diversified.</p> <p>(iii) The Internal Audit Unit should ensure that designated authorising officers sign all vouchers before their approval for payments</p>	<p>(i) Visitor notes recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation (ii).</p> <p>(iii) Visitor notes recommendation (iii).</p>

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 such projects and their relevance for further funding."

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
5.1.	APPLICATION OF STATUTORY ALLOCATIONS	<p>(i) The main source of funding for the Institute was the statutory allocation from the Federal Government for personnel, overhead and capital.</p> <p>(ii) The statutory allocation of ₦493,065,215.00 (Four hundred and ninety three million, sixty five thousand, two hundred and fifteen naira only) for one financial year was grossly inadequate considering the fact that personnel cost of ₦429,258,402.00 (Four hundred and twenty nine million, two hundred and fifty eight thousand, four hundred and two naira only) constituted the main chunk of the allocation, leaving capital and overhead with ₦26,846,574.00 (Twenty-six million, eight hundred and forty six thousand, five hundred and seventy four naira only) and ₦36,960,239.00 (Thirty six million, nine hundred and sixty thousand, two hundred and thirty nine naira only) respectively.</p> <p>(iii) The Institute was not considered for special funding to enable it rehabilitate dilapidated infrastructure and non-functional facilities,</p>	<p>(i) Government should increase statutory allocation to the Institute to enable it grow into the centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and development of Nigerian languages for which it was established.</p> <p>(ii) Government should consider allocating a special grant to the Institute for the purpose of upgrading infrastructure and facilities which had remained in deplorable conditions since it regained its autonomy from the UNN.</p>	Visitor notes these recommendations.

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
		occasioned by the neglect of facilities at the Aba campus of UNN between the years 2005-2014.		
52.	APPLICATION OF FUNDS : SPECIAL GRANTS AND LOANS, ETC.	<p>(i) The Panel observed that the Institute was not supported with funds from TETFund through all of its intervention grants during the period under review.</p> <p>(ii) There was no funding received in the form of Special Grants and loans meant for specific projects such as grants for Library Development, Special Rehabilitation and Supplementary Grants during the period under review.</p> <p>(iii) The Institute did not receive any grants, donations or loans from state governments, corporate organizations or individuals.</p>	<p>(i) The Institute needs to be more proactive in its IGR drives, especially with respect to attracting grants and support from State governments, corporate organizations and public-spirited individuals.</p> <p>(ii) Government should take necessary measures to ensure that the Institute is listed amongst the tertiary institutions qualified to draw from all TETFund intervention funding for Federal and State Governments-funded tertiary education institutions in Nigeria.</p> <p>(iii) Government should provide the Institute with funds for Library Development, Special Rehabilitation and Supplementary grants as is the case with all Federal and State tertiary education institutions funded by the Federal and State Governments.</p>	<i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i>

TERM OF REFERENCE FIVE

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

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
6.1.	ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES	<p>(i) Degree students were admitted through JAMB but under the ambit of UNN. UNN took along the degree students in 2014 when it disengaged from NINLAN. Only students of the Acculturation programme passed through NINLAN throughout the period.</p> <p>(ii) The acculturation programme was the most subscribed programme in the institution under the circumstances and throughout the period under consideration (2011-2015). In all, 396 students enrolled and graduated.</p> <p>(iii) The enrolment in the programme for the postgraduate diploma programme was generally low. However, it was good it commenced.</p> <p>(iv) The Non-academic staff greatly outnumbered the academic staff, close to a ratio of 5 : 1</p> <p>(v) The staff of NINLAN were suitably qualified in view of the numbers of Ph.D and Masters degree holders.</p> <p>(vi) Staff did not receive institutional support to attend conferences or further training. There was no institu-</p>	<p>(i) Given that the Law establishing NINLAN provided for the award of degrees, the Institute should, after careful evaluation, be empowered to admit students for the bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Nigerian Languages.</p> <p>(ii) The acculturation programme being an area of strength for the Institute, should be sustained and extended to include other Nigerian languages.</p> <p>(iii) Acculturation Centres can be established in other communities for that purpose across the country, under the ambit of NINLAN.</p> <p>(iv) The establishment of the Acculturation Villages or Centres should be integrated into the Institute's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>(v) The efforts of Management and staff of the Institute should be commended for initiating the post graduate diploma programme and having the students graduate on time.</p>	<p>(i) Visitor rejects recommendation (i).</p> <p>(ii) Visitor notes recommendation.</p> <p>(iii) Visitor rejects recommendation (iii).</p> <p>(iv) Visitor rejects recommendation (iv).</p> <p>(v) Visitor rejects recommendation (v).</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>tional funding support to staff to attend conferences or training. Rather, staff mostly supported themselves.</p> <p>(vii) However conferences attended by staff, as well as workshops, were relevant to their areas of specialisation and gave visibility to NINLAN.</p> <p>(viii) There was no document on a Staff Development Plan.</p>	<p>(vi) The post-graduate diploma programme should be given wider publicity to create awareness and generate interest and patronage of the populace.</p> <p>(vii) Greater efforts should be made to recruit more academic staff, especially as the Institute recovers from being a campus of UNN.</p> <p>(viii) Given the number of non-academic staff, the Institute should ensure that any further recruitment of this category of staff should be highly relevant with requisite skills that will make significant contribution to the development of NINLAN.</p> <p>(ix) Staff should be commended for self-support to build their capacities, thereby sustaining the Institute's academic capacity.</p> <p>(x) Being an Inter-University Centre, NINLAN should have provision, through appropriate budgetary allocation for staff training and conference/workshop attendance.</p>	<p>(vi) <i>Visitor rejects recommendation (vi).</i></p> <p>(vii) <i>Visitor notes recommendations (vii), (viii), (ix), (x) and (xi).</i></p>

B 16

<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>
			(xi) The Institute should develop a staff training plan and conduct staff training audit to set priorities for training needs in the future.	

TERM OF REFERENCE SIX

"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	<p>(i) The Council did not work harmoniously. This informed the disagreement over the appointment and non-appointment of Mr. Precious Onoja Edache and the ensuing legal tussle.</p> <p>(ii) The disagreement among Council members prevented that Council from making serious positive impact on NINLAN.</p>	<p>(i) Appointees of government on a Board such as NINLAN's should be schooled on their responsibilities and the limits of their powers, while being held accountable for their actions.</p> <p>(ii) Where and when the supervisory bodies, in this case, the NUC and FME get wind of a problem in a Council, it should take immediate steps to resolve the dispute. Where efforts fail, such Council should be dissolved promptly to avoid needless legal tussle and save the government needless embarrassment.</p>	Visitor notes these recommendations.
7.2.	NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION	<p>(i) The Executive Secretary of the NUC, Professor Julius Okojie, made frantic efforts to reconcile aggrieved members of Council.</p> <p>(ii) The pledge by Council members to work together was short-lived.</p>	The Executive Secretary of the NUC should be commended for his untiring intervention at reconciling the warring members of the NINLAN Council.	Visitor notes this recommendation.
7.3.	NCCE/NBTE	Due to the non-functioning of NINLAN occasioned by the ceding of NINLAN to UNN, there was no activity or role played by these two regulatory bodies in relation to NINLAN.		

B 18

<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>
74.	FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	<p>(i) The FME played a vital role in reinstating the Management structure of NINLAN following restoration from UNN.</p> <p>(ii) The ₦200,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Million Naira Only) revitalization fund was never released to NINLAN.</p>	<p>(i) The Federal Ministry of Education should be commended for its role in reinstating the Management structure of NINLAN.</p> <p>(ii) The government should release the ₦200,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Million Naira Only) revitalisation fund to NINLAN.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes these recommendations.</i></p>
75.	ACADEMIC BOARD	<p>There was no Academic Board within this period.</p>	<p>Being a statutory Board charged with supervising the academic programmes of the Institute, at no time should the Institute be left without an Academic Board.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i></p>

TERM OF REFERENCE SEVEN

“To examine the law establishing the Inter-University Centre 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 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>
8.1.		It was impossible to examine the law to verify relationships between the internal organs, units, and offices in order to gauge ways in which the law has been observed by competent authorities on one hand, and to proceed to suggesting modifications to the law, on the other hand.	<p><i>Conclusion</i></p> <p>In the light of the foregoing, this Term of Reference was taken up in the second report covering the period 2016-2020.</p>	<i>Visitor notes this conclusion.</i>

TERMOFREFERENCEEIGHT

"To trace the historical evolution of the Inter-University Centre 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>
9.1.		<p>Major problems the Institute faced were insecurity, poor funding and a divided Council.</p> <p>The problem of insecurity was traceable to the very extensive area of land (109.5 ha) in the permanent site without perimeter fencing. Also, there was the challenge of encroachment into the land by some members of the immediate communities.</p> <p>Capital grant, when it was restored in 2015, was paltry and there was no special grant as there was no replacement for ETF from which were constructed the existing structures and even the abandoned ones.</p> <p>There was the brooding legal tussle between Onojo Edache and NINLAN related to the unresolved appointments.</p>		<p><i>Visitor notes these problems for update in subsequent visitation.</i></p>

TERM OF REFERENCE NINE

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

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
10.1.	SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NINLAN	<p>(i) The security apparatus in the Institute was extremely weak due to lack of skilled manpower and proper organization.</p> <p>(ii) The permanent site of the Institute which was heavily forested and without proper security was extremely porous, as bushes and trees have overgrown the entire uncompleted and abandoned buildings thus, making the site a safe haven for criminals.</p> <p>(iii) Apart from the incidence of kidnap, reports of petty theft of phones, money, laptops as well as the snatching of handbags were prevalent.</p>	<p>(i) The Federal Government should as a matter of urgency, see to the completion of all abandoned projects if they pass integrity test; otherwise, they should be demolished to close the hideouts of the criminals.</p> <p>(ii) Perimeter fencing should be provided with limited entry and exit points which will be manned by security personnel.</p> <p>(iii) There should be employment of more personnel into the security unit for effective coverage of both campuses.</p> <p>(iv) The staff of the security unit should be given periodic trainings and retraining to improve on their efficiency and effectiveness in securing both campuses.</p> <p>(v) Security and safety equipment/apparatus such as security vans, motorcycles, body scanners, and walkie talkie (hand held transceiver) should be provided for the security unit.</p>	<p>Visitor notes recommendations (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi).</p>

B 22

<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>
			(vi) At least, the developed areas should have street lights to deter criminals.	

TERM OF REFERENCE TEN

"To examine the processes and structures of discipline of students in the Inter-University Centre in line with the due process of the law."

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
11.1.		<p>NINLAN was just about one year in regaining its autonomy from UNN when the University went away with their undergraduate degree students. So, there was no handbook regarding students' discipline.</p>	<p>(i) In view of the challenges of cultism and examination misconduct which have been rampant in the Nigerian higher Education institutions, it is necessary to put up the legal framework for addressing students' indiscipline.</p> <p>(ii) In order to be proactive and preempt the problems of indiscipline, students' disciplinary guidelines should be clearly specified in the students' handbook and academic regulations and given to all students at the point of registration.</p> <p>(iii) A Students' Disciplinary Committee should be constituted to address any misconduct and disciplinary issues that may occur.</p> <p>(iv) An Examination Misconduct Committee should be constituted to handle cases of examination misconduct.</p>	<p>Visitors notes recommendations (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).</p>

B 24

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

MUHAMMADU BUHARI, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria