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PRESS RELEASE

The Abia State University Governing Council at its 110th Regular Meeting of Friday, 23rd September, 2011, noted with deep concern, the Vice Chancellor's report of the alleged gang-raping of a female student of the University; expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his investigation that there is no evidence to the effect that the incident took place in Abia State University; and challenges anyone with information to the contrary, to bring same to the notice of the appropriate authorities.


O. E. ONUOHA
Registrar/Secretary to
Council

NEWS

ASUU rules out negotiation with Fed Govt

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) yesterday said it would no longer negotiate with Federal Government on the implementation of the 2009 ASUU/FGN agreement.

Its Ibadan zonal Coordinator, Prof. Akin Ajisegiri, said there would be an indefinite strike.

"The Academic Staff Union of Nigeria Universities is now very worried. We are worried because almost all the other facets of Nigerian society do not see what we are seeing. We have been shouting and crying about this issue for years."

"The prevailing situation in the society has vindicated our position. Nigerian state is not moving. Instead of progress what we see is stagnation. For how long are we going to be like this? We know for a fact that the development of any nation cannot go faster without the development of the educational sector."

"Education is the bedrock of every developmental stag-

From Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan and Kofoworola Belo-Osagie

es and processes in all civilised world and aggregated society. We are becoming so worried because the Nigerian state is becoming increasingly unsafe for anybody to live in. We have all the indices.

"We are just not taking cognizance of them. For how long are we going to live in this type of fear? We have agitations everywhere. We all know that a hungry person is an angry person. People are hungry and people are angry. The level of anger determines the way we react."

"We cannot move. There is the fear of the unknown of bomb scare in Nigeria, armed robbers (day and night) bombings in the East, West, North and South. If we are not properly educated, we cannot be productive, if we are not productive, we cannot move from the level that we are.

ASUU has been crying about improvement in the level of funding for the education sector. UNESCO has suggested that 26 per cent budgetary allocation be made for education.

"ASUU President Prof. Uchukwu Awuzie yesterday said he received a call from an unidentified person in government who made overtures.

"We are looking forward to the implementation. They have our support. But let them implement it. They called me today to tell me they are working on it. They said the implementation involves the National Assembly, the Presidency and the Committee of Vice Chancellors. They are the ones causing the problems."

"When asked how the Vice chancellors contributed to the strike, Awuzie said: "They are part of the problem because when asked to submit data about their institutions, they drag their feet," he said.

Witness admits alterations to presidential poll results

THE Imo State collation officer for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the April 16 presidential polls, Prof Enoch N.T. Akobundu yesterday admitted that there were alterations in the result sheet he submitted.

Akobundu, a Deputy Vice Chancellor at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umuahia, Abia State was INEC's sole witness that gave testimony at yesterday proceedings.

Under cross examination by counsel to the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), Abubakar Malami (SAN), he confirmed alteration on Form EC 8E (final result sheet containing results from the 21 Local Government Areas of the state), but quickly explained that the changes were done in the full glare of all stakeholders, including agents of some political parties who waited till the result was declared.

From Kamarudeen Ogundele, Abuja

He said: "The alteration on the exhibit EPT 14 occurred before all the agents signed; the agents did not counter sign the result sheet because most of them did not wait till the final result was declared."

Justifying the position of the commission that the presidential poll in Imo was free and fair, the witness said: "There was no shortage of election materials and no Presiding Officer or agent in the state was arrested throughout Imo State on the day of election as being alleged; all agents of political parties had free access to the collation centre where I was collation officer."

A Certified True Copy (CTC) of Form EC 8E made available indicated that, figures from 11 of the 21 local government areas were altered, perhaps to reflect the accurate position.

Fed Govt's concession agreement flawed, says ICRC

THE country's inability to derive maximum benefit from most Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme has been linked to some fundamental flaws in agreements entered into by the Federal Government, it was learnt yesterday.

The flaws were discovered by Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), the agency responsible for infrastructure concessioning in the country.

The flaws are: poor project preparation, inadequate definition of output requirements, lack of knowledge and non-compliance with approved Public Private Partnership procurement process.

The commission said it identified some shortcomings in its enabling Act which it wants National Assembly to address.

Chairman, Governing Board of the commission Chief Ernest Shonekan, spoke yesterday while presenting the ICRC's 2010 annual report and audited financial statements to President Goodluck Jonathan at the State House. He said the shortcomings have impacted negatively on the PPP programme.

From Vincent Ikumola, Abuja



• Chief Shonekan

Shonekan did not name the affected concession agreements.

He, however said about 20 potential PPP projects were identified and are currently under development.

"Given our experience in the past year, it has become necessary to, once again, call on all MDAs to always develop and procure all PPP projects in line

with the National Policy on PPP (N4P).

"In doing this, ICRC should be consulted at the earliest stages for necessary guidance and support. It is also important that MDAs make adequate provisions in their annual budgets for project preparation," he said.

The President directed the ICRC and other relevant government ministries, departments and agencies to expedite action on efforts to resolve difficulties in the implementation of concession agreements, especially that of the Lagos - Ibadan Expressway.

He said that all issues hindering the implementation of the agreement needed to be quickly resolved because of the critical importance of the expressway in Nigeria's road transportation network.

President Jonathan also directed that arrangements be made for the ICRC to make a full presentation on its mandate and work to the Federal Executive Council to ensure that there is effective coordination and cooperation between the commission and MDAs in the implementation of concession agreements and Public Private Partnership projects.