

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES, EFFURUN  
FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR AKII IBHADODE,  
FAS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

It is with gratitude to God that we all gathered to recount what we have collectively been able to achieve on the last One hundred (100) days that I have been at the helm of affairs in this University.

Permit me to recall that the Registrar—Mr E.M. Ichendu and I assumed duty on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015. Since that day, we have been working with the other Principal Officers, Management, Members of Council and indeed, all staff, students and friends of the University to make FUPRE a University of first choice in Nigeria.

Before I go further, I want to thank the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council, Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange and Members of the Governing Council for selecting me as the Vice-Chancellor and the other Principal Officers which has ushered in a new lease of life to the University. We hope to collectively work with the Governing Council to take this University to an enviable height.

On my assumption of duty, I presented to the University community my vision of where I intended the university should be taken during my time as Vice chancellor. I will want to remind us of some of these and how far we have gone in working towards achieving the set vision.

**2. SOME KEY POINTS IN MY VISION DOCUMENT**

**2.1. Infrastructure**

- i) To develop special bonds with Petroleum and allied companies as to be the first port of call for solutions to their operational challenges so as to lead to:
  - Funded researches
  - Establishment of specialized Centres in FUPRE by companies
  - Donation of equipment, etc
  - Income generation from consultancy, training, etc
  
- ii) To optimize the use of existing resources to avoid wastages
  - Deploy appropriate resources for maintenance
  - Provide motivation to staff: These will lead to:
    - Extension of life of facilities
    - Decent learning and working environment and facilities
    - Increased productivity

**2.2. Manpower**

To carry out National and International recruitment for Research Professors, Visiting Professors, Engineers, Scientists Technologists, etc

**2.3. Academic Development**

To Institute new programs including training courses that will attract competitive tuition fees as in the Petroleum industry

#### **2.4. Research**

To collaborate with international universities/research institutes

#### **2.5. Staff and students welfare**

- To establish a good working relationship with the various Labour Unions: ASUU, SSANU, NASU, NAA Tetc so as to maintain peace on Campus
- To create a working understanding with the Students Union

#### **2.6. Fund generation**

- Put structures in place for aggressive funds generation through
  - Consultancy
  - Training
  - Research
  - Commercialization of research results
  - Industrial Park
- Study the Local Content Act to determine areas where the University can advantageously operate

#### **2.7. Discipline**

- Provide for zero-tolerance for fraudulent activities
- Usefully engage students; that will discourage engagement in violent activities

#### **2.8. Relationship with Host Community**

We see the host communities as critical stakeholders to facilitate security outside Campus, provide certain needed services (markets, shops, hostels, guest houses, etc) in the Community for students, staff and visiting students and scholars and so create harmonious living.

In the last 100days, we have tried to mobilise men and materials to achieve the set vision that we have set for ourselves.

### **3. ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR**

#### **3.1. Infrastructure**

A number of buildings to house academic programmes, laboratories and workshops have been started since I resumed. These include:

##### **i) TETFund assisted 2013 / 2014 classroom blocks:**

This is a 3-block set of classrooms and offices designed to house about seventy-two lecture rooms and eighty-four offices including conveniences. These together with the Special Intervention classroom block under construction will help reduce the lecture room problems currently experienced. A block of this will be ready by the start of next academic session.

**ii) Takeoff of TETFund assisted electronic teaching project**

We have also received and in the process of installing TETFund assisted ICT materials for Electronic teaching. This project will also involve the training of 100 academic staff in the first instance. It is hoped that from this project, our lecture materials can be accessed from any part of the world. Students will be able to interact with their lecturers without being physically present in the same room. Four lecture rooms are being equipped with these state of the art equipment.

**iii) Reception and processing of 400 million Special Grant ICT Building**

In the last 100 days, this University had also received a special grant from TETFund to build and equip an ICT/Petroleum laboratory. This will assist the University to undertake key researches and analyses for the petroleum industry and enable her to be a key player in realising the local content policy. We gratefully acknowledge the roles played by the Chairman, Governing Council, Senator Nimi Barighe-Amange and Professor Arubayi in attracting the fund.

**iv) Creation of Equipment Design and Maintenance Unit in VCO**

In the bid to develop the design and maintenance of our equipment in-house, an Equipment Design and Maintenance Unit has been established in the Vice Chancellor's Office. This unit will serve to maintain many of our equipment locally and certify that any equipment purchased is in good working condition before payment is made. This unit will serve as hands - on Training Centre for our students.

**v) Building of Temporary Laboratory and Office Spaces**

In order to provide some relief from insufficient workspaces, effort has been made to immediately build some temporary laboratory and office spaces. The first of these is a 60 square meter (40' x 32') laboratory built in the College of Science as shown in Figure 1. It is to house the laboratory equipment donated by ExxonMobil to the Department of Earth Sciences. The construction of two more of such buildings is currently going on. Direct labour through the Equipment Design and Maintenance Unit in the Vice-Chancellor's Office is being used.



Figure 1: Department of Earth Sciences laboratory built from two shipping containers

**vi) Capacity to repair vehicles in-house and serve as training for students**

A workshop unit has been created under Works Department to carry out in-house servicing of all University vehicles. While reducing maintenance cost, this will also serve as training ground for our students.

**vii) Continuous interaction with University Capital Projects contractors**

This administration has been having continuous interaction with the Capital project contractors. By so doing, issues that will delay the delivery of projects are resolved, there has been reduction of claims processing time and these collectively is meant to reduce projects completion time.

**viii) Interaction with supervisory agencies**

We have endeavoured to maintain continuous Interaction with all relevant supervisory bodies such as Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission, TETFund, PTDF etc

**3.2. Academic Development and Administration**

**3.2.1. Rule of Law**

To ensure high performance, the hallmark of this administration will be the rule of law. Operations must follow the rules as laid down statutorily. This ensures harmony, fairness and predictability leading to motivation and high productivity. We have tried to do this in this number of days and hope to continue with it.

**3.2.2. Discipline**

Punctuality through register signing, teaching/grading as well as deadlines for presentation of results to Senate, and other time sensitive documentations have been implemented.

**3.2.3. Strengthening relevant staff base of the University:**

To improve the man power situation in some critical areas of need in the University, especially in the very senior academic staff cadres; some staff have been employed within the limits of available resources.

**3.2.4. Restoration of accreditation:**

On assumption, the burning issue I had to confront was the loss of accreditation for five programmes in the College of Science namely: Chemistry, Mathematics, Geology, Environmental Science and Geophysics. A Consultant was engaged to assess the NUC report and he had given a critical analysis of each failed programme. Several visits have been made by me to NUC and barring the NUC statute on failed programmes, arrangement have been made for NUC team to return at the earliest possible time to re-accredit these programmes. The temporary Earth Science Laboratory and academic staff employed are part of preparations for the re-accreditation.

**3.2.5. Streamlining of Administration for Better Academic Performance**

On assumption of duty, I realised that there was need to streamline the administration in this young University so as to fall in line with the University Brief and best practices in University administration. Some of these include:

- (i) Senate was reconstituted in line with the University Brief and best practice in University governance as the highest academic policy body of the University.
- (ii) The Vice Chancellor's Office was re-organised within limits of available space.

- (iii) Universities generally are run on committee system with representation from various spheres of the University. An expanded list of committees was generated and ratified by Senate.

### **3.2.6. Consolidation of Take-off of Postgraduate School and College of Management:**

Senate under my purview has approved the brief for the take off of the Postgraduate School and the College of Management. The first Dean of the School - Professor Chris Ajuwa and Coordinator of the School of Management – Professor G.O. Yomere have been appointed to quickly coordinate processes for the effective take off in the 2015 – 2016 academic session.

### **3.2.7. First Convocation Ceremony**

A committee has been set up to organize the first ever convocation and investiture of the Chancellor ceremonies. It was initially slated for November this year. However, due to the paucity of funds, we are contemplating having these ceremonies in the first quarter of 2016.

- 3.2.8.** A new Department of Works was created out of Department of Physical Planning and Development under which it was a unit to fall in line with normal university practice. An Acting Director, Engr. Godswill Okpako, has also been appointed.

### **3.3. Research**

On assumption, I had promised to push research into the fore-front in the University. To achieve this, a few things have been put in place:

#### **3.3.1. Shell Eco-marathon Team**

Having worked in the University of Benin in raising a team of students to produce an automobile and race it at international competitions, I raised a similar one in FUPRE with the assistance of some of my past students who came as members of NYSC working with a select group of FUPRE students and staff as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: FUPRE Shell Eco-marathon students (including German intern) and their supervisors

This group has produced the first FUPRE Shell Eco-marathon car (Figure 3) which has been registered to compete in the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Africa Shell Eco-marathon in October 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Figure 3: Lightweight car designed and built by the FUPRE Shell Eco-marathon Team being tested

**3.3.2. Focused research teams:** In order to raise the tone of cross – cutting interdisciplinary research in the University, we have raised four research groups with members across the two colleges in the University. It is believed that these groups will research into ways of pushing university research to solve problems of the immediate community and Nigeria in general.

**3.3.3. Petroleum industry interaction booklet:** We are also generating a booklet that will be made available to the oil industries of the potentials available in the university. This will serve as a quick guide to the oil and gas industry of how FUPRE can be of assistance to them. This we hope will increase industry sponsored research.

#### **3.3.4. Research Innovation Park**

A **Committee on Research Innovation** headed by the Director of IGR Projects has been established whose function is to on a yearly basis identify marketable research projects which can be funded as a spin-off company in the **Research Innovation Centre** being set up. A proposal on this Centre has been forwarded to TETFund for possible funding. The Research Innovation Centre will serve as an incubator for spin-

off companies borne out of marketable research findings. This is to among other things encourage entrepreneurship in our students, lecturers and technologists.

### **3.4. Students and Staff Welfare**

#### **3.4.1. Take off of new hostel block building:**

Student accommodation is fast becoming a problem in the University in terms of insufficient hostel space and the vast sum the University spends on rented accommodation. Towards resolving these issues, a new hostel block has started within the University to accommodate about 550 students when completed in about nine months' time.

#### **3.4.2. 24-hour Health Centre Services**

The implementation of having a 24-hour health services operation in the University has started with the employment of a Director of Health Services and some other health services staff. When the plan is completed, the Health Centre will operate 24 hours every day of the week.

**3.4.3. Resolving staff promotion and employment grievances:** On assumption of office, there were various complaints on placements and promotions. To resolve these issues various steps have been taken.

A committee was set up to investigate and recommend on each case of wrongful placement. The committee has completed its job and implementation is on -going.

The 2015 staff promotion exercise has started and the process will be concluded before 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**3.4.4. Discussion with Unions:** To foster better working relationships, the administration prizes high dialogue with Unions. To this end frequent meetings are held with staff and student unions as need arises to nip issues in the bud and maintain healthy relationships.

### **3.5. Fund Generation**

#### **3.5.1. Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) Projects**

One sore issue since I assumed duty is the poor financial situation of the university. This has affected the ability of my administration to operate effectively including the implementation of some welfare programmes for students and staff. To improve the revenue base of the University, a Director of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) Projects has been appointed whose remuneration is tied to the amount of revenue generated. The projects he is driving at the moment include:

(i) **Block Making Factory:** A block making factory has been designed, location identified and will come into operation in the next two weeks. It will serve the captive market in the University of the various capital projects. A meeting was held with the University's building contractors who will be the

major consumers of the product were we were given the go-ahead for the project to ensure sales.

- (ii) **Pre-degree Programme:** After the University Senate approved the Pre-degree Programme, a plan of action was put in place for starting the programme in later this month. We have received over 300 applications for the programme with the school fee of N100,000 per student. The Pre-degree Programme is of nine-month duration to enable candidates earn good grades in their WASC/NECO and UTME examinations.
- (iii) **Foundation Programme:** The University Senate has also approved the Foundation Programme, a one-year programme that qualifies candidates to have direct entry admission to the University through a joint examining body, JUBEB for which the University has applied for registration. The advertisement for this programme will be made after concluding the admissions into the Pre-degree and degree programmes. The school fee for this programme is N235,000 per student.
- (iv) **Bottled/Sachet Water Factory:** Plans have been concluded for establishing Bottled/Sachet water Factory in the next three months.
- (v) **Kilishi/Dried Fish Factory:** Plans for establishing a Kilishi/Dry fish factory has also been drawn up. This will come after the Water project.
- (vi) **Eatery:** A location and an investor has been found to provide eatery services for the University.
- (vii) **Consultancy Services:** The IGR Projects Director is aggressively driving the participation of the University in consultancy services. A good example is our expression of interest in the survey of the ports on the West African coastline.

### 3.5.2. Donations By Contractors to University

The administration solicited and received over five million Naira donations from University capital project contractors for provision of temporary offices. These donations include cash gifts, shipping containers and air-conditioner units.

### 3.5.3. Direct Labour

When losses are reduced, useful fund increases. Thus, through direct purchases and workmanship, some of the mini-projects were carried out with lesser amounts compared to using contractors. Therefore, funds were freed for other uses.

## 3.6. Collaborations and Linkages

### 3.6.1. IAESTE Programme

Before assuming duty, I had made plans to receive a German intern, Mark Lange of Technical University of Dortmund, Germany, to work in my laboratory at the University of Benin. On moving to FUPRE, he moved over to this University for his internship under the International Association of Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, an organization affiliated to UNESCO. He is here for four months working with the FUPRE Shell Eco-marathon Team (Figure 4). Thus, FUPRE is now part of this international organization which allows us to

receive foreign students as interns and also allows our students to have their internships in foreign universities.



Figure 4: German intern from Technical University of Dortmund working with FUPRE students

### **3.6.2. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)**

Since assumption of duty, we have aggressively pursued establishing collaborations with local and international organizations. We have signed MOUs with the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON) (and consequently have established the Centre for Institutional Safety) and the University of Stavanger, Norway. Signing of MOUs is at advanced stage with the following bodies: National Biotechnology Development Agency, Buy Naija Project of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investments, I-Flow Energy Ltd., United Kingdom and the Nigeria Institute of Welding. Many other bodies within and outside Nigeria are being engaged in order to shore up the capabilities of the University.

### **3.6.3. International Conference on Petroleum Research & Development**

The First International Conference on Petroleum Engineering Research & Development organized by FUPRE will hold in July 2016. The organizing Committee is working hard to organize a successful conference which will see a great assembly of international petroleum industry players and academics.

### **3.6.4. Alumni Office**

An Alumni Office to cater for the interests of our graduates has been set up. It is yet to take off fully as we expect to engage a suitable graduate as Alumni Officer.

## **3.7 Others**

### **3.7.1. Visit to the Chancellor**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, myself, the Registrar, and two other staff to the Vice-Chancellor paid a visit to our newly appointed Chancellor, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Attahiru Muhammad Ahmad CON, Emir of Zamfara to present his letter of appointment from the President. Our reception by the Chancellor is beyond description: reception by a high-powered delegation at Sokoto Airport, three-car motorcade to Anka (about two-hour drive from Sokoto), twelve-car motorcade reception at Anka City Gate, dancing troupes at the Palace Gate, grand reception at the Palace, countless royal gifts, grand luncheon, escort back to Sokoto and finally escort to Sokoto Airport the next day! Virtually anyone who mattered in Zamfara State came to receive us! (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Visit to the Chancellor, HRH Alhaji Attahiru Muhammad Ahmad CON, Emir of Zamfara

### 3.7.2. Relationship with Host Community

The administration had in the last 100 days developed good working relationship with the host communities. On assumption of duty, we took time out to visit the communities and documented their views and aspirations for the University. I am happy to note that so far, the relationship has been cordial. We will strive within limits of our laws and the laws of the land to meet the due expectations of our host communities.

We hope that they will deal with us as a Federal University that has the major mandate of human capital development and not a revenue generating company.

## 4. Acknowledgements

Once again, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Governing Council for their support and encouragement, the students for being well behaved and studious, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olatunde Damisa, from whom I took over as the Acting Vice-Chancellor and has been very supportive, the staff and Staff Unions for their cooperation, the Principal Officers, Mr. Ejikeme Ichendu, the Registrar, Mr. Sam Inengite, the Bursar and Professor Esharanana Adomi, the University Librarian. Also, I wish to thank the Host Community for its support and encouragement, especially the Ovie of Uvwie, His Royal Majesty, Sideso Abe I and his Chiefs.



Professor Akii Ibadode, FAS  
Vice-Chancellor

11<sup>th</sup> August 2015.