

COMMITTEE OF PRO-CHANCELLORS OF STATE-OWNED UNIVERSITIES

Chairman:

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FCI Arb (NIG), FDRA, FSPSP, FNMGS.

Vice Chairman:

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COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE 62ND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PRO-CHANCELLORS OF STATE-OWNED UNIVERSITIES ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2023 AT ABUJA

The Committee of Pro-Chancellors of State-Owned Universities in Nigeria (COPSUN) at the end of its 62nd Quarterly Meeting held at Abuja, FCT discussed important issues pursuant to the growth and development of State-Owned Universities and tertiary education in Nigeria and hereby resolves as follows:

1. SENATOR JOSHUA LIDANI STEPS IN AS COPSUN CHAIRMAN

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Gombe State University, Senator Joshua Lidani has been elected as the new chairman of the Committee of Pro-Chancellors of State-Owned Universities in Nigeria.

Senator Joshua Lidani who was a former Deputy Governor of Gombe State and former Senator for the Gombe South constituency of Gombe State replaces Yusuf Ali, SAN who bowed out of COPSUN following dissolution of the Governing Council of the Osun State University where he was the Pro-Chancellor. Prof. Ayodeji Omole, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Ladoké Akintola University, Ogbomoso became the Vice Chairman at the election while the Pro-Chancellors of Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Prof. R.B. Ikomi; Lagos State University of Education, Ijanikin, Alhaja Sakeenat Yusuf and Kebbi State University of Science and

Technology, Dr. Haliru Bala were elected members of the new executive council respectively.

2. COPSUN GETS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

COPSUN in another development has reconstituted its Board of Trustees with the appointment of six (6) eminent Nigerian personalities including Yusuf Ali, SAN, Professor of Law Practice and the immediate past chairman of COPSUN, Senator Major General Mohammed Magoro also former chairman of COPSUN and Hon. Awwal Tukur who was the immediate past Vice Chairman of COPSUN. Others are Prof. E.A.C. Nwanze, Emeritus Professor and Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, University of Delta, Agbor; Rev. Father (Dr.) Nwali Abraham, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Ebonyi State University and Prof. J.D. Amin, former Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Yusuf Maitama Sule University.

3. LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT HOSTS COPSUN BIENNIAL CONFAB JUNE 2024

The Committee expresses profound appreciation to the Lagos State Government for accepting to play host to its 2024 Biennial Conference on behalf of its state universities. It wishes the state government abundant blessings of God in the years ahead.

4. UNIVERSITY FUNDING

COPSUN has appealed to state governments in the country to improve the funding of state-owned Universities. The Pro-Chancellors asserted that by virtue of their closeness to the grassroots, the state Universities have better understanding to contribute to the social, economic and technological advancement of the people and should therefore attract more government attention.

Furthermore, the Committee charged the Vice Chancellors of state universities to be more proactive and seek for alternative sources of revenue to supplement government funding.

It added that by so doing, the Vice Chancellors of State Universities will be creating a niche for themselves as the master of development of tertiary institutions in Nigeria.


5. AUTONOMY OF STATE UNIVERSITIES

The Committee reiterated the importance of University autonomy and called on the State governments to uphold the principle of autonomy and emulate the Federal Government where the appointments of Vice Chancellors end with the Governing Council of individual Federal Universities.

The Pro-Chancellors added that the State Universities Governing Councils should be given free hands to determine the school fees of their various Universities having regard to the modern economic realities in the Country.

6. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO CURB BRAIN DRAIN IN UNIVERSITIES

COPSUN observed that the brain drain syndrome has taken its huge toll on the university system in Nigeria with many lecturers seeking for greener pastures abroad. The Pro-Chancellors therefore called on the Federal Government to declare the development as a matter of national concern deserving urgent solution.


Marcus Awobifa
Secretary, COPSUN