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Special Release

21 May, 2012

VERITAS SACRA EST: FOR THE RECORDS

INTRODUCTION

Management is in receipt of a document entitled **“The University of Ibadan Ajibode Project and Publications by the University Council in the Special University Bulletins of 22 March, 2012 and 02 April, 2012 Against the Bamiro Administration: The Facts of the Case and Lessons for Leadership in the Unstable Environment of University Governance in Nigeria”** by **Prof. Olufemi A. Bamiro, Immediate past Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan .**

At first glance, it was difficult to believe that it was indeed written by a previous holder of the exalted office of the Vice Chancellor. To state the least, the write-up is filled with distortions, dis-information and outright falsehood. The reality stared us in the face when, at the meeting of Management held on Thursday, 10th May, 2012 and a special meeting of Management and Internal Members of Governing Council held on Friday, 11th May, 2012, the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) admitted that he was privy to the document. The document was circulated widely on the University campus. As it has come to light now, the same document was distributed electronically by Prof. Bamiro to Vice Chancellors of other Universities in the country on Friday, May 18th, 2012. This singular act of externalizing an otherwise internal matter demonstrated clearly that an agenda was on to damage the reputation of the University of Ibadan which had offered Prof. Bamiro a platform to serve.

Management will refrain from addressing personalities as it has the potential to cause distraction but will endeavour to address some salient issues to correct mis-representations and half-truths for the sake of posterity. Management also owes this great institution a moral duty to defend, uphold her integrity and sustain its salutary values.

Management wishes to react to specific comments as they relate to four particular areas in the aforementioned document as follows:

1. AJIBODE ROAD PROJECT

Management considers the controversy on the role of the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN in facilitating the take-off of the road project as worrisome. Prof. Olufemi Bamiro in his Address to the 2010 Foundation Day and Convocation Ceremony on 17th November, 2010, declared as follows: **“Also most appreciated in facilitating release of fund, is Chief Wole Olanipekun, our Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council. But for him, we would not have been able to solve the political logjam that the project ran into.”**

There have been several stories about the rescue package and how the project was brought back from the “jaws of death”. The fact remains that when this Administration assumed office, it was clear that it had inherited a big problem.

- a). Whereas UI had paid over ₦1 billion on the Ajibode Road contract representing about 80% of the total contract sum, the work done was put at about 50%.
- b). An independent evaluation by a Quantity Surveyor commissioned at the directive of the Governing Council revealed that the University had overpaid the contractor by over Three Hundred Million Naira (~~₦300million~~). The option of determination of contract was therefore not a noble one; rather Management resorted to appeal to the Contractor to complete the project.
- c). In February 2011, Management constituted a Committee to fast-track the completion of the road. Moreover, in March 2012, an ingenious approach was adopted with support from Council when it became obvious that the project may never be completed. The outstanding works were subsequently sub-contracted.
- d). Inspection of the road in April, 2012, left no one in doubt that UI had been short- changed as the University was presented with a low quality job.
- e). A report by the Directorate of Quality Assurance of the University further confirmed the poor quality of the job.

f). It is on record that Management did not pay any additional money to the contractor in view of the overpayment.

2. HANDOVER NOTE

Prof. O. A. Bamiro's six-page handover note is not befitting of our institution and was therefore rejected by Council. The rejected note was received five months after the Vice Chancellor was appointed and two months after his assumption of office. Our University with a rich culture of noble tradition places high premium on handover notes. Deans/Provost of College of Medicine as well as Heads of Departments and Units are expected to submit these notes at the end of their tenure. All handover notes are by regulation sent to the Vice Chancellor who forwards them to the Director of Audit for processing. Audit reports are thereafter prepared and sent to the Vice Chancellor before being referred to the Audit Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) of Council. The final document is forwarded to Council for discussion.

There is therefore no reason why handover notes from Principal Officers should not get to Council.

The document submitted by Prof. Bamiro failed the crucible test of our institution. Handover note by Principal Officers of the University is a tradition and not a process. It is worthy of mention that the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. A. A. B. Agbaje submitted a 38-page handover note to Prof. Bamiro in November 2010, even when there was no successor to hand over to. This report received commendation from the Governing Council. It is also instructive to note that the immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. E.A. Bamgboye, has submitted a detailed handover note to the University Administration for necessary processing.

A sour point was item 3.2 on page 4 of the Handover Note of Prof. Bamiro which dealt with the stoppage of the award of over ₦500 million contract by the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council in the last weeks of Prof. Bamiro's tenure as Vice Chancellor. The Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council frowned at the propriety of presenting a contract award for approval under 'Any Other Business' (AOB). He offered to excuse himself and called on an external member of the Governing Council to take over the chairmanship of the meeting. The member however politely declined and the matter was deferred.

3. FINANCIAL AUDIT OF DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE

The financial audit of the Distance Learning Centre (DLC) was largely influenced by the comments of Prof. Idris Abdulkadir, Chairman of the 2011 Presidential Visitation Panel to the University of Ibadan.

a). Management instituted a two year financial audit (2009 and 2010). The findings were revealing. **The Audit exercise found no credible financial system in place at the DLC.** The firm of auditors was thereafter directed to cover 2007, 2008 and 2011.

b). Clearly, the exercise was not to witch-hunt, but one designed to overhaul the financial system of the DLC. Management has used the report as a basis for reforming the financial system of DLC and capacity building of staff. A financial system is being put in place while training of staff is on-going. In addition, an administrative audit of the DLC has been conducted while a proposal on the re-restructuring of DLC is being developed.

*For the avoidance of doubt, page 20 section 7.3.1 xviii of the 2011 Presidential Visitation Report stated: **The University Administration should carry out full audit of the Distance Learning Centre activities for the past 5 years and put in place structures where the Central body is on top of the activities of the Centre which behaves as an autonomous entity not answerable to any higher authority.***

4. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

The postulation that the International Conference Centre (ICC) does not belong to the University is most unfortunate. The ICC is owned by the University of Ibadan Endowment Fund (UIEF) which was established by the University of Ibadan.

The relationship between the Governing Council and UIEF is well articulated in the constitution of the UIEF which was approved by the Governing Council of the University at its meeting on 1st February, 1996.

CONCLUSION

The above is to set the records straight without unnecessarily engaging in name-calling and character assassination. It is hoped that all of us who are privileged to mount the saddle of leadership will learn the traits of humility while in and out of office as this is the essence of service. Management remains focused in its commitment towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the current Administration as approved by Senate and Council.

Truth is Sacred!

This Release supersedes the Special Release Number 2887.

Signed

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