

# EduDigest v2

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## NUC's 57 illegal universities...

Nigerian news channels are virtually falling over each other with the report of the NUC (National Universities Commission) publishing a list of 57 universities which the commission said are illegal. Beyond the buzz of 'breaking news', the same old questions have resurfaced. What does the commission mean by illegal? To what extent is their illegality? What will happen to the students in the school? Have the institutions in question failed the students or did the commission?

A short while ago, industry watchers who tried to follow the matter of NUC v Lead University, Ibadan got quite lost in the matter and many cannot now tell where it all ended. It would not be unfair to feel that the body language of NUC is often confusing. Are the universities totally illegal and should be scrapped in their totality? Are the universities at different points of compliance or non-compliance with the requirements of NUC? Is NUC by declaring them illegal trying in any way to compel them to speed up or complete their registration or standardization processes? These become pertinent questions as one would otherwise wonder where the NUC was when some of them got to their various stages. It will come as no surprise if some of these schools have students in final year or have graduates already. Now, the degrees will not fetch NYSC call-up, recognition for employment/transactions, or admission for further studies.

A closer look at the names of the universities in question reveals that a number of them are not new names in the education space. University of Education, Winneba Ghana is mentioned, declaring any satellite campus of the university in Nigeria illegal. By implication, NUC is confronting not only organizations who have established new universities but who have established satellite campuses of existing and reputable ones. Whether for quality of work or for operational procedure, one wonders.

Whatever it is, the thinking on the street requires NUC to do more than merely publishing names. For the students, the pain is much. For their parents, an admission advisory would have been more useful before admissions and not when the students are midway through or have actually completed their studies. And for the institutions who may still comply with NUC directives, and receive their blessings to operate legally, this can be quite damaging as they will have to struggle with the consequences of

making the NUC blacklist.

For indeed, following NUC's method of operation in recent times, it is not unusual to read in the news that a school



Prof Julius Okojie

or some of its courses failed NUC accreditation and then read again later that they have passed the same accreditation. Therefore, we can almost be sure that some of the schools NUC listed as illegal might still turn out very legal a few weeks from now. NUC is not being accused of anything. Instead, an observation is being made on the body language of NUC or at least

the kind of signals their operations are giving the man on the street.

Perhaps then, it may not be the best to declare them totally illegal or to lump them up. Apparently, they could not all have been found guilty of the same error and there remains a chance that some of them may eventually shake off the tag of illegality. However, if they have zero chances of ever becoming legal, what will happen to students who have been misled under NUC's watch? If these students and their investments are to be thrown to the wind, then it would be indeed difficult to absolve NUC of any blame. NUC has promised to recover the fees paid to these schools but that is hardly any succor for the graduate holding a dud certificate.

Collectively, we need to demand more of NUC. We need to see more pre-emptive action. While commending them for saving the would-be students a lot of agony, and recent advisory on online studies that involve no contact with students, it would not be asking too much if they have to look into the plight of the students who have been rendered homeless by this list. In the same vein, prosecuting people who make commerce of education seekers is a step in the right direction. With universities sprouting everywhere, it is time to do something drastic.

## Enrol at NOUN- Obasanjo tells admission seekers

Punch newspaper reports that Nigeria's former president, Olusegun Obasanjo has said that the establishment of the National Open University of Nigeria presents Nigerians with a unique opportunity to acquire tertiary education. He said this while playing host to executive of the NOUN alumni association led by the president, Mr Phil Colman when they paid him a courtesy call in his presidential Hiltop residence in Abeokuta.

Obasanjo said since the establishment of the university in 2005 while he was still president presented a viable alternative to conventional universities especially for adults desirous of tertiary education. He opined that nobody in Nigeria will say s(he) does not have access to higher education with NOUN except s(he) does not want.

President Obasanjo is an alumnus of the institution where he bagged a degree in Theology. He urged Nigerians to take advantage of the opportunity to acquire higher education and upgrade their knowledge since there is no more excuse for not learning. Also in the course of his comments, the former president alluded to the anxiety of the Law students of the institution over accreditation of the institution and said he hoped that Law had come to stay in the institution.

The president of NOUNAA in his response, commended the former president for opening up the education space with the establishment of the university. President Obasanjo is a life patron of the association.

The National Open University has study centres spread all over the country and details of their activities are available on their website. Ogun study centres are at NNPC Mega station in Abeokuta (abeokutastudycentre@nou.edu.ng) and Community Study Centre at Awa Ijebu (awaijebustudycentre@nou.edu.ng). Lagos centres are Lagos study Centre are at NERDC, Agidingbi (Beside Fela's shrine). McCarthy Centre 38/40 McCarthy off Obalende Rd, Opposite Ghana High Commission; and Nigerian Navy NNS QUORRA, Apapa, Lagos. See full list at [www.nou.ng/noun-](http://www.nou.ng/noun-)



Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo

## Do you wish to join the NYSC debate?

**Every time Michael picks up a pen to write, he stirs the hornet's nest. If nothing else, he makes us take another look at what he is thinking. He shares an opinion on the NYSC .**

**Michael Adejowo at 03:02 (Sunday, 23 August 2015)**

### **3 Reasons The NYSC Scheme Should Be Scrapped.**

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was introduced by General Yakubu Gowon after the Civil War some decades ago to promote national unity/integration and to avoid a possible recurrence of such disastrous event. The idea is not a bad one, but today, 42 years after, we need to ask ourselves again, the importance of this scheme in today's Nigeria.

PERSONALLY, I suggest the scheme be scrapped for the following reasons:

#### **1. The Integration is Not Working:-**

Let's face it. Nobody wants to serve in the North (except, of course, the northerners), the Ibos still want their Biafra Republic, many Yoruba would rather serve in Lagos... Where is the supposed integration? We are forced to serve in places against our will. Truth is, UNITY CANNOT BE FORCED! 42 years later, we still see ourselves as different people. We may be friends, we may get along, but some-

where in our hearts, we are not just exactly the same people. Today, we are still VERY ethnic-conscious. If the NYSC cannot unite Nigeria after 42 years, when will it?

#### **2. N19,800...**

Who does that? Work for a whole month (like other regular workers) and get less than #20,000 as salary? Rent, bills, feeding, transportation, recharge and data subscriptions? Did you also plan a MINOR wardrobe upgrade or you dream of a date with that cute fellow? Don't bother to count how much is left.

#### **3. A Year Holiday From Reality.**

After the service year, then you may even begin to appreciate the #19,800 plague. That is the moment the reality of unemployment in Nigeria hits most of us. After the year, it's back to 'every man for himself'. If the government would not give us 'real jobs', why waste a year of our lives on 'virtual jobs'? Slavery is a form of service. It is about time we really wondered if the government has any plans for us at all. It is about time the whole idea of the NYSC was critically reviewed. Guys, what do you think?

**Expectedly, he gets a response to some aspects of the arguments he raised. What is exciting about it is**

**that the opinions are expressed by people of the same generation and both had been though the NYSC experience**

Ademosu Oluwashynaayomi Temitayo

I disagree with the writer base on d following:

1. We have Yoruba serving in and north and east. 2. We are too conscious of money N19,800 can still be managed just to serve. A lot of us did industrial training and teaching practice for 6 months without collecting a penny. 3. I have heard of testimonies where people established things with money realized from the service year. Don't forget that the state will also pay and the place of primary assignment also assists. Someone started a business with a year 'allowee' of over 200k. Our major problem is that we don't love and don't manage resources. Well thanks

**If you wish to join the debate or express an opinion on this or other matters, send to [educationresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:educationresourcecentre@gmail.com)**

## University don says JAMB no longer relevant

Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities, University of Ibadan chapter, Prof Josiah Ajiboye has said that JAMB has lost its relevance. He says the action of JAMB reallocating students to other universities other than those of their choice, was a criminal matter because it set aside the freedom of choice of the candidates as Nigerians; and a public institution like JAMB cannot be a promoter of private establishments. He feels there is something fishy if JAMB uses public fund to serve the interest of private establishments.

He said JAMB was established to serve as a clearing house for admission into tertiary institutions, however its performance over the years has raised credibility questions. He cited an instance where a parent is told that the child scored less than the qualifying mark only for the parent to return with a higher score.. He attributed the post-UTME tests conducted by the universities to the failure of JAMB. He says it has reached a stage when each university should be allowed to conduct its entrance examination as was the case. He added that there was no need to worry about the quota system since all the regions now have federal universities in their domains. A committee of admission of the universities would be needed to prevent multiple admissions. Dr Ajiboye feels that rather than mess up the self-conducted examinations, it would serve to strengthen the autonomy the universities have been seeking. It could in fact internationalize the universities as each institution could go to Australia to get students.

Dr Ajiboye stops short of asking for the scrapping of JAMB, preferring to leave it to Nigerians to decide what to do with the body after universities have been allowed to autonomy. In his opinion, to doubt the quality of examinations conducted by universities is to doubt the quality of lecturers and professors in the university system. He queries, "who actually prepares the UTME questions? Are they not our colleagues from the universities.?"

Says Prof Ajiboye, JAMB lost it long ago. The agency has destroyed the dream of many young Nigerians for university education through its actions and inactions...i call on the government to set up a new review panel on admission crises in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Full story at [www.punchng.com/politics/crossfire/jamb-no-longer-relevant-asuu](http://www.punchng.com/politics/crossfire/jamb-no-longer-relevant-asuu). Story by Bayo Akinloye

Send your response to [educationresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:educationresourcecentre@gmail.com) for publication in the next newsletter



Prof Josiah Ajiboye

## JAMB needs to be strengthened- ASUP

President of Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics, Mr Chibuzor Asumogha has said that the call for the scrapping of JAMB is hasty and cannot be justified. In response to the controversy raging over the decision of JAMB to change the candidates' choice of universities, Mr Asumogha said the body had attempted to explain the policy but the explanation cut no ice with stakeholders. "I do not subscribe to hasty extreme options when there are better alternatives on the ground", he says. He believes that among the considerations that need to be made are a post-mortem of the examination body as an idea and as an institution with a view to realistically appraising how far JAMB has solved the challenges that necessitated its establishment.

Asumogha feels it would amount to drawing hasty conclusion if it came down to saying whether the actions of the examination body were right or wrong. "Although JAMB's explanation on the controversial policy did not go down well with several stakeholders, it would be quite presumptuous and judgmental to claim that the examination body's intentions were ill-intended. What I think is that JAMB proceeded without factoring in the interests of other stakeholders in the matter. Perhaps the board needed to have consulted with other stakeholders before adopting the policy which looked like changing the positions of the goal posts halfway into the game.

Asked his opinion on one of the reasons for the calls for the scrapping of JAMB (which is that they have become a clearing house for private universities), Asumogha said he did not want to be seen as holding brief for JAMB. He said if JAMB has been doing so, it needs to be investigated and if found to be true, appropriate reprimand should be meted out. He also feels that JAMB should open up its operations to the critical public and that it would also be necessary for the government to reappraise its policies on private participation in tertiary education. With a view to streamlining the partnership of privately-owned institutions with the Federal Ministry of Education and even the regulatory agencies such as JAMB, the National Board for Technical Education, National Universities Commission, and National Commission for Colleges of Education. At present, Asumogha argues that wide variances exist between private and public tertiary institutions in administrative structures, admission policies, personnel capaci-

ties and other critical standardization variables. He feels that if JAMB is given full capacity, the post -UTME will become unnecessary. He concludes that as it stands now, the UTME process in some universities have begun to accommodate some of the unwholesome practices JAMB was set up to eliminate.

Full story at [www.punchng.com/crossfire/jamb-should-be-strengthened-asup/](http://www.punchng.com/crossfire/jamb-should-be-strengthened-asup/)

Story by Bayo Akinloye. Send your response for publication to [educationresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:educationresourcecentre@gmail.com)



Chibuzor Asumogha

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## A LETTER TO NIGERIAN PARENTS—Adeyinka Temitope

The following article is the outcome of rummaging through Facebook. It so succinctly describes one of the challenges we face.

*Omoakin Fiolorunsho*

*A Call To Change "My Children Will Not Suffer What I Suffered" Syndrome by Biliamin(m):*

LETTER TO NIGERIAN PARENTS written by Adeyinka Temitope

I wish to start by adding the benefit of my time as a student and then resident in the UK. Living in

Abuja now. The first thing that I discovered about UK-born, white, English undergraduates was that all of

them did holiday or weekend job to support themselves - including the children of millionaires amongst them. It is the norm over there - regardless of how wealthy their parents are. And I soon discovered that virtually all other foreign students did the same - except status - conscious Nigerians. I also watched Richard Branson (owner of Virgin Airline) speaking on the Biography Channel. To my amazement, he said that his young children travel in the economy class - even when the parents (he and his wife) are in upper class. Richard Branson is a billionaire in Pound sterling. A quick survey would show you that only children from Nigeria fly business or upper class to commence their studies in the UK. No other foreign students do this. There is no aircraft attached to the office of the Prime Minister in the UK. He travels on BA. And the same goes for the Royals. The Queen does not have an aircraft for her exclusive use. These practices simply become the culture which the next generation carries forward. Have you seen the car that Kate Middleton (the wife of Prince William) drives? VW Golf or something close to it. But there's one core difference between them and us (generally

speaking), they (even the billionaires among them) work for their money, most of us steal ours. If we want our children to bring about the desired change we have been praying for on behalf of our dear country, then please, please let's begin now and teach them to work hard so they can stand alone and most importantly be content and not having to "steal" which seems to be the norm these days.

We have Nigerian Children who have never worked for 5 minutes in their lives insisting on flying "only" first or business class and using the latest cars fully paid for by their "loving" parents. I often get calls from anxious parents "my son graduated 2 years ago and is still looking for a job, can you please assist!"

"Oh really! So where exactly is "THIS CHILD?" is my usual question. "Why are you the one making this call dad/mum?"

I am yet to get a satisfactory answer, but between you and I, chances are that the big boy is cruising around Abuja with a babe dressed to the nines, in his dad's sparkling new SUV with enough "pocket money" to put your salary to shame. It is not at all strange to hear a 28 year old who has NEVER worked for a day in his or her life in Nigeria but "earns" a six figure "salary" from parents for doing absolutely nothing. I see them in my office once in a while, 26 years old with absolutely no skill to sell apart from a shiny CV, written by his dad's secretary in the office. Of course, he has a driver at his beck and call and he is driven to the job interview. We have a fairly decent conversation and we get to the inevitable question - so, what salary are you looking to earn? Answer comes straight out - N250,000.00. I ask if that is per month or per annum.

"Of course, it is per month"

"Oh, why do you think you should be earning that much on your first job?"

"Well, because my current pocket money is

N200,000.00 and I feel any employer should be able to pay me more than my parents."

No wonder corruption continues to thrive. We have a society of young people who have been brought up to expect something for nothing, as if it were a birthright. Even though the examples I have given above are from parents of considerable affluence, similar patterns can be observed from Abeokuta to Adamawa.

Wake up mum! Wake up dad! This syndrome - "my children will not suffer what I suffered" is destroying your tomorrow. You are practically loving your child to death. I learnt the children of a former Nigeria Head of State with all the stolen (billions) monies in their custody, still go about with security escort as wrecks. They are on drugs, several times because of the drug, they collapse in public places. The escort will quickly pack them and off they go. What a life! No one wants to marry them. Henry Ford said "hard work does not kill." We are getting everything wrong in Nigeria now, including family setting. It is time to prepare your children for tomorrow, the way the world is going, only those that are rugged, hard working and smart working that will survive. How will your ward fare?

Please forward this to all the parents you know and love. We must begin to save our young children from unintended consequences of "too much love" and weak parenting. It is the only way we can build a better tomorrow for them.

*EduDigest expresses appreciation to the writer of this piece and gladly partners to get the message across.*