

COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE 9TH ANNUAL RETREAT AND 57TH BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (ARNU)

The Association of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (ARNU) held its 9th Annual Retreat and 57th Business Meeting at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology Auditorium from 21st to 25th October, 2014. Under the theme ***Security Challenges and Administration of Higher Education in Nigeria***, the Association noted the negative impact of insecurity on Teaching, Learning, Research and Community Service in Higher Institutions.

1. ARNU identified the rising level of examination malpractice, cultism, indiscipline, admission racketeering, etc as some of the causes of insecurity in institutions of higher learning.
2. The Association also identified the general decay in learning facilities, inadequate material resources, insufficient welfare programmes for staff and students, poor funding as contributory factors to insecurity in higher institutions.
3. The Association frowned on the wanton killing, kidnapping, raping and intimidation of innocent citizens of the country, particularly students, staff and managers of educational institutions.
4. In the area of student mobilization for National Service, ARNU emphasized the need for effective collaboration between higher institutions and regulatory bodies such as National Universities Commission (NUC), Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) towards ensuring that only qualified graduates are mobilized.
5. ARNU commended the efforts of respective managers of higher educational institutions in designing and implementing policies and programmes towards minimizing insecurity on campuses and called for improved platforms for effective communication towards better Management/Student relationship.
6. At the state level, ARNU recognized and appreciated the efforts of government, including the security agencies in handling issues of insecurity in the country. Of particular note are the efforts so far made by government towards the release of the over 200 Chibok girls, who were abducted by terrorists. The Association urged the Federal Government to increase its efforts and explore all possible means towards ensuring safe return of the girls.
7. ARNU noted with commendation, the Federal Government efforts towards improving on infrastructural facilities and staff development in higher institutions through TETFund and urges it to ensure sustenance towards enhancing the global ranking of higher institutions in Nigeria.

8. ARNU appreciated JAMB as a statutory regulatory body charged with the responsibility of conducting entrance examination and placement of qualified candidates into Nigerian Universities. The Association encourages higher institutions to ensure the establishment of CBT Centres in Nigeria higher institutions, so as to gradually phase out the paper and pencil mode of testing. This will bring about the elimination of examination malpractice in higher institutions, especially when UTME is conducted, instill merit and confidence in the system, as well as generate revenue.
9. ARNU noted with happiness the report from its Executive members that the training fellowship approved by the Association for the training of Administrative Officers has fully taken off with the successful sponsorship of six Assistant Registrars on the study tour of selected universities in the United Kingdom. ARNU resolved that this fellowship be encouraged for enhanced performance of young administrators.

ARNU urged its leadership to continue to collaborate with Vice-Chancellors and the NUC to ensure that Registrars of Nigerian Universities under the auspices of ARNU, continue to collaborate with their counterparts across the globe to encourage the exchange of ideas and best practices on University Management.

10. ARNU finally appreciated the Governor, Barr. (Dr.) Sullivan Iheanacho Chime and good people of Enugu State for peace and security experienced by members of the Association in the state during the meeting. It also appreciated the Management and staff of Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT) for hosting the 9th Annual Retreat and 57th Business Meeting of the Association.

Dr. Omojola Awosusi
Chairman

Tony M.E. Dogun II
General Secretary