

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE IKOM OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 1st ALUMNI DELEGATE CONGRESS HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT MARIAN HOTEL LIMITED, CALABAR

1.0 CONGRESS AGENDA

SATURDAY 10 TH FEBRUARY 2018 10:00 A.M – 6:30 P.M		
S/N	DESCRIPTION	MODERATORS
1.	Registration of delegates and collection of congress materials	Secretary General, Publicity Secretary, ADC Secretary
2.	Call to Order 1. Opening Prayers 2. National Anthem/ School Anthem 3. Introduction of congress officers 4. A minute silence in honour of our departed members	ADC Chairman
3.	Reading and Adoption of Congress Agenda	ADC Chairman
4.	Welcome and Opening Address	National President
5.	Presentation and Adoption of Alumni Mission, Vision and Motto	ADC Chairman
6.	Presentation & Discussion Sessions One 1. Overview of USOSA 2. Setting up organs of administration of the alumni 3. Light tea breakfast while discussion is ongoing 4. Constitution 5. Alumni activities and events 6. Finance	ADC Chairman
7.	Lunch Break	All Delegates
8.	Presentation & Discussion Sessions Two 7. Projects 8. Other Business 9. Voting/ Collation of votes	ADC Chairman
9.	Break: White Elephant Gift Exchange Game	ADC Chairman
10.	Summary 10. Congress Recommendations 11. Presentation of Communique	ADC Chairman, Secretary General, Publicity Secretary, ADC Secretary
11.	Closing 1. Adjournment/Vote of Thanks 2. Closing Prayer	Calabar Chapter Chairman

1.1 ATTENDANCE

Find in the attached document (ADC Congress Attendance D.2)

2.0 Call to Order

The meeting was formally declared open and the house was called to order at exactly 12:06 p.m. A brief prayer was said and both the national and college anthems recited by all present. Delegates observed a minute silence in remembrance of all our departed school mates.

Introduction

The ADC Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged the presence of the National President and other members of the National Executive Committee present and invited them to the high table. He asked delegates to take turns and introduce themselves stating their names, year of graduation and current occupation. This was done beginning with 1994 set down to 2010 set.

3.0 Adoption of the Agenda

The ADC chairman presented the congress agenda and asked delegates if the items on the agenda were in order. They responded positively and no objection or correction was made to the agenda. Consequently, a motion for adoption of the agenda was moved by Dr. Simon Ereh and seconded by Dr. Robert Egot.

4.0 Welcome and Opening Address

The Chairman called on the national President to give his welcome address. In his remarks, Mr. Christian Johnson stated how elated he was to be at the event. He said for him, the day was a dream come true. He added that he had always looked forward to gathering old students of the College to meet and discuss how to forge a common cause for the association. He wished delegates a happy deliberation and expressed optimism that at the end of the day's meeting the association will indeed move forward.

5.0 Presentation and Adoption of Alumni Mission, Vision and Motto

The ADC Chairman remarked that as an association we are expected to have a *mission statement, vision Statement and Motto* as these mantras will serve to motivate us as we move along the Alumni journey. He informed delegates that the Motto for the association remains 'Pro-Unitate' but its vision could be shaped a bit different. He threw the idea open to delegates to think through it stating that since in the interim the National Executive Committee has decided to keep open the delegates forum, as intellectual's delegates should assist in drafting the association's mission and vision statements further which the diverse thoughts and ideas will be collated and harmonised to produce a general statement. Their suggestion will be adopted at the next General Meeting coming up in September 2018 at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

6.0 SESSION 1: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

6.1 OVERVIEW OF USOSA

Highlight of the Discussions

It would be recalled that prior to the congress, there were divergent views on the ADC forum with regards to USOSA membership. Despite attempts made at explaining and providing answers to questions raised by some delegates, there were grey areas that still needed clarification. To help address these concerns, the ADC chairman called on the national President to provide an insight on USOSA and its activities. The ADC chairman said he hoped with the explanations those concerns would be addressed. The President stated that;

- USOSA is the body in charge of all unity schools in the federation.

- The Association was formed in 2007.
- About 72 Unity Schools are registered with USOSA as of 2017.
- FGC Ikom was the 38th school that became a registered member as of 2011.
- USOSA's primary purpose is to work with the Federal Ministry of Education and other stakeholders and speaks on behalf of all Federal Government Colleges in the country.
- The President stated further that he had attended several USOSA meetings in Abuja where he interacted with alumnus of other unity schools who are people of high standing in society.
- He said as an association we can inform USOSA about the 30th Anniversary of our College coming up in 2019. USOSA will be willing to move its plenary session to our College. This will provide the opportunity for USOSA members to come and identify with our association and the College.
- Also, if we inform USOSA early enough that we intend to undertake a school project they will be willing to support us.
- He believes that as an association we should always align with USOSA as we stand to lose nothing by forging this relationship and strengthening it.
- As at last year, USOSA had put in place an endowment fund of about ₦100 Billion with commitments to raise the funds over a seven-year period.
- USOSA is also planning to build an 18-storey building (with two wings) where each state of the Federation will occupy a floor.
- These and more are part of the plans USOSA has aimed at assisting the various unity schools.
- So far, USOSA has gone ahead to set up a project inspection committee to monitor the various projects being awarded by federal government to various unity schools to ensure that contractors do not default on their commitments to project delivery.
- He referenced the incidence that occurred in Queens College Lagos where there were issues relating to water supply at the College and USOSA's intervention resulted in the replacement of the then principal of the school.
- He concluded by restating that our association, stands to lose nothing by aligning with USOSA.
- On the issue of indebtedness, he said ours is not the only association indebted to USOSA.
- We are expected to pay an annual due of ₦100, 000
- Our outstanding indebtedness amounts to about ₦500,000
- He emphasised that despite the money being owed USOSA, this shouldn't be seen as big problem
- He is optimistic that if we could raise ₦200, 000 or ₦300, 000 we can approach USOSA and seek for a waiver which could be granted.
- Just as it is with our fledgling association, USOSA has a lot of challenges as well even in terms of finance.
- Our indebtedness to USOSA doesn't prevent us from attending its meetings.
- He welcomes the idea that our association should continue to identify with USOSA in all its programmes and activities

- He said if there were further questions from delegates, members of National Executive Committee will be willing to address them

Major. Peter Bisong attested to the numerous benefits our Association stand to gain by identifying with USOSA.

- He informed delegates that USOSA was given birth to at a time when the government was considering ceding unity schools to states or privatizing them. As a result of which the unity school alumni came together to resist that move of government and agreed to hold the schools in trust for government. He pointed that in USOSA there is no division or dichotomy as all unity schools are treated as equals regardless of when they were established. He noted that every member and unity school is accorded the recognition they deserve. He affirmed that Federal Government College Ikom stands to lose nothing by being a member of USOSA but rather will benefit from the relationship. He said our indebtedness shouldn't deter us as we can pay our dues. He advised delegates not to dwell so much on the matter but create the time and read more about USOSA on its website to enable us to move forward.
- The ADC Chairman gave opportunity to delegates to ask questions and make their opinions heard. In their submission;
- Barr. Ibanga Udoh despite agreeing with the assertion made on USOSA and its benefit sought to know if associating with the body will prevent our association from being officially registered with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- The President allayed his fear by stating that as an association, we are free to obtain CAC registration.
- Dr. Nkpanam Essien shared a personal experience where he had attended one of USOSA's meeting held in Calabar and attested to the hospitality and cordiality he received from its members.
- Arc. Kenneth Edagha buttressed the point made by the President stating that some of the issues raised concerning USOSA could be tackled administratively. He encouraged delegates not to see the issues as one of grave concern but rather believes they can be handled by the National Executive Committee. He advised delegates to rather be concerned about how we can work through those items we need to consider as projects for the College.
- Mr. Imeiba Ajiwhien said he was very happy with the explanation given by the President. He said initially when the matter was presented at the ADC forum it seemed as if our hands are tied and it was the absence of the freewill to associate with USOSA that some of the delegates were arguing against. However, he was happy that we have the choice to either register with USOSA or not regardless of the benefits we stand to enjoy by associating with it.
- Mr. lyke Onyensoh informed delegates that in 2013 he was part of a delegation that represented the national President in one of USOSA's gathering and it was indeed an event he looked forward to attending again.
- Dr. Robert Egot drew the attention of the Chairman to the fact that he believes in fostering relationships and supports the idea of aligning with USOSA but thinks we should first get the wheels of the association moving, agree on the amount of dues members have to pay and to take that information back to our individual sets. He

expressed concerns as to whether his class will support the idea of settling USOSA's debt immediately. He suggested we work out a plan wherein the USOSA dues can be sourced from the dues we'll collectively agree to pay rather than create a caveat exclusively to raise money for USOSA.

- The ADC chairman clarified Dr. Robert's position and reminded him that what delegates have agreed is to have a modality on how to pay the indebtedness and we were yet to discuss when these monies will be paid.

Resolutions

After making all their submissions known with all grey areas clarified, majority of the delegates

- Agreed that Federal Government College Ikom Old Students Association will align itself with the Unity Schools Old Students Association (USOSA).
- That Federal Government College Ikom Old Students Association will pay all outstanding dues owed to USOSA.
- Mandated the National Executive Committee to set up the modalities and communicate to the wider alumni body on how the association can offset these dues and also ensure compliance.
- Stipulated a timeframe within three weeks from the date of congress for National Executive Committee to tell each set the modality on how to raise the specified amount owed USOSA to enable us to reconcile our membership with it before the end of March 2018.

6.2 SETTING UP ORGANS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE ALUMNI

The ADC Chairman threw the next Agenda item up for debate and reminded delegates that it was a follow up to what they had already discussed on the ADC forum. He hoped new delegates who were selected to replace the initial nominees from their sets had availed themselves with the information from the minutes and other documents earlier posted on the ADC forum prior to the congress. He said he wouldn't like a situation where an issue that had already been discussed and agreed on at the forum is brought up again. He reminded delegates that they needed to stay focused on the objective which is geared towards reviewing those discussions, reaching final agreements, and communicating same to National Executive Committee for necessary action.

The ADC chairman made some explanation to aid delegates understanding of the issue. He pointed that organising the association in this instance has to do with finances and information flow between the national body and its sub-structures and networking within the association itself. It is expected that the association's dues will be paid by individual members through their respective class leaders and remitted to the national body through its official bank accounts. He observed however that within the sets members are located in different geographical zones and the sets alone do not provide the platform for members of the association from different sets to meet and interact and foster an enduring relationship. There is need therefore to bridge the gap arising from the set-set barrier which necessitates the formation of state chapters where all members in a particular area can organize themselves to be effective within the association.

He noted also that the institutional based alumni chapters which are sub-chapters under the state chapters need to be recognized. He identified Unical and CRUTECH chapters as being the prominent ones at the moment. He said the question therefore becomes whether these institutional chapters should be classified differently. Do we group their members into their sets or take them as sub-chapters within the states? If they are considered chapters, do we see them as institutional based chapters working independently or are part of the state chapters? The chairman called on delegates to state their opinions on the issue. In their submission,

- Dr. Simon Ereh said he was privileged to be among those who started the University of Calabar chapter of the association and understands the importance of having a functional alumni association that operates at the level of the schools. We should however bear in mind that the institutional chapters are like nurseries which serve to bridge the gap between the younger and the older members and it is at the level of the schools that we try to imbue in the minds of these students the passion for the alumni. Therefore, if they exist a gap between when a student graduates from College up until when they are able to pay dues we will experience huge dropout rate from the association. He sees this group as being crucial to ensuring that there is continuity of vision and passion. He added that irrespective of what happens at the state chapters and at the set levels, we should uphold the institutional groups and ensure their continuous existence because in it lies the future of our association. He advised that whatever arrangements are being made for the state chapters should also apply to institutional chapters to enable them carryout their activities effectively. He advised the national body to commit finances and other resources to support their activities and growth.
- Barr. Oru Ebam stated that although he initially had issues with the set/ zone/ state structures but it is good some clarification has been made on the matter and agreed with Dr. Ereh's position. However, he suggested that the institutional based Chapters should be the direct responsibility of the state chapters where they are domiciled to ensure that their activities are regulated by the state chapters. He said we must ensure that our association is not used to promote illegal activities and it is incumbent on us to protect the image of the association. As whatever image members portray at the campuses is what they will carry with them to the wider alumni body. He agreed that while we have the national body and state chapters, the sets are also very essential to contributing to the overall success of the association.
- Arc. Kenneth Edagha suggested that the state chapters should be created in all the 36 states of the federation and should be under the purview of the national body for ease of administration. He opined that the institutional chapters should be under the purview of the state chapter chairmen for ease of information flow from the national body to them and also to avoid multiplicity of functions. He argued that for almost twenty-eight years of the school's existence we have not been able to gather ourselves to meet as one body. He thinks however that if after the congress the National Executive Committee mandates the state chapters to become effective, he believes they'll function. He submitted that all the sets should

come under the state chapters and afterwards the National Executive Committee should mandate each state chapter to constitute its executives.

- Major. Peter Bisong hinted that the whole idea of our meeting together is for us to find ways to move our College forward. He agreed with the earlier speakers on their submissions but however raised an observation that the idea of having executives spanning all the states might not be feasible due to non-uniform spread of members across the federation. He sees the situation as being skewed in favour of states within the southern parts of the country except for places like Abuja, Kaduna and a few northern states. So, while consideration is being given to state chapters there is a need to also consider having zone structures to serve as focal points in these areas where the population of members is sparsely distributed. In areas where we have a large concentration of members, the state structure should suffice. And for a place like Lagos where members are found in other states contiguous to it the state can be made a zone of its own.
- Mr. Edet Ukpogon reckoned that for simplicity and ease of administration regardless of where a member is located the State structure should be upheld with the association having chapters in the 36 states. Where a state has few members residing in it those members can align with the closest state to them otherwise the association runs a risk of having a structure that may become too complicated to manage. He said members of the various sets exist in different states and the sets make up the state chapters. It is expected that when members are mandated to pay their dues, they should go to their sets and then remit funds collected through their states. He stated further that there is need to follow structure and that the matter should not be over flogged noting that since there are divergent views the matter should be put to a vote.
- Mr. Iyke Onyensoh informed delegates that individual sets are expected to muster their classmates to join the national body. He admitted that there are challenges that come with trying to organise and administer the state chapters but their existence has helped to drive the association to its present point.
- Mr. Nneoyi Igri advised delegates to see growth as a process in itself. He suggested that the association should continue with its present structure and as we progress further if there is need to set up structures in several states we will do so and shouldn't dwell too much the issue for now but as we grow, depending on our population we can expand. He emphasised the need for members to be committed to the cause irrespective of the groups they belong to or wherever they find themselves.
- Dr. Nkpanam Essien views the issue as one that involves financial commitment. He wonders who will be financially responsible for maintaining the association. Will the set or the state or both be responsible?
- Arc. Aniebiet Ackley informed that, the birth of the National Executive Committee in 2014 stemmed from the success of the state's chapters and that the success of the ongoing delegates congress is as a result of the success of the sets. He submitted that, while the sets should be responsible for mobilizing funds for the association from its members, the state chapters should also be retained.

- Barr. Sebastine Udoh posited that it is not necessary for all the states in a region to become chapters but different states can come together to form a zone.
- Mr. Obinna Hart reminded delegates that no association can run successfully without a financial base. He sought to know what the contribution of the state chapters will be to the national body and suggested we uphold the sets rather than the state chapters.
- Mr. Ajiwhien Imeiba argued that the strongest unit that has worked for the Association so far is the set and financially we should work with the sets. He said for the sake of social gathering members need to know themselves particularly those who live in the same city. He supports having state chapters but thinks they do not necessarily need to have an organisational structure except a leader who will act as liaison between it and the national body.
- Mr. Modey Ugboji sought to know how the states would finance their activities if the financial responsibility is shouldered by the sets. Who pays dues to the states? How can they run their activities without finances?
- Mr. Ime Umana argued that it is very easy to administer the national body and the state body. It doesn't matter if states have their executives as they won't be part of National Executive Committee. He agrees that the state chapters serve to provide a platform for socialization. As the occasion demands, through the state chapter chairmen resources can be pooled together to fund their activities whenever there is a social gathering. He however believes that the national body is supreme and the sets only serve to encourage the national body to function through remittances of dues and all other financial obligation. He advised that the matter be put to a vote to enable members to come to an agreement.
- Dr. Robert Egot said that our emphasis should be more on a set based system to avoid multiplicity of offices. He added that the set based system is good but we also need to look at a nationally driven state system where each of the state would have its coordinator and other heads of sets would support the state coordinator in running the state chapter. He advised that the states should be funded by National Executive Committee. He believes the set based system will leverage on relationships and should be the focus.
- The national President called on the female delegates present to make their submissions by contributing to the debate stating that their opinions mattered.
- Ms. Jacinta Bakoshi said she supports Dr. Robert's position however she thinks coordinators of sets may not be based in some states and as such wondered how it would be possible for the state leader to work with them.

Having heard their submissions, the ADC chairman gave a summary of the viewpoints as follows;

- The association should be structured along the lines of the individual Sets and recognition accorded them.
- The association should be divided into state chapters (with the institutional chapters as sub-chapters within the state chapters where the institutions are located).
- That the Association should be structured into Zones

However, it became expedient for Delegates to harmonize the various viewpoints and the Chairman asked if the issue should be put to a vote which majority of delegates agreed to.

- Dr. Robert Egot However raised objections to having the decision put to vote and Dr. Simon Ereh interjected stating that when contending issues need clarification he thinks it will be wrong to put the matter to a vote without clearly explaining it as these decisions are matters that would affect the alumni even into the future. He gave example of his experience in Benue state where he could only identify three members in the entire state and as such for a state with very few individuals it would be difficult to muster the number to meet with the associations financial obligations but at the set level there is uniform distribution of responsibilities and as such the sets remain the most viable option for the association to raise its finances.
- Majority of the delegates voted in support of the following resolutions:

Resolutions

Majority of the delegates agreed that the association should continue to uphold the alumni structure as follows;

- The National Body
- The State Chapters (with the institutional Chapters as sub-set of the State chapters where they are located)
- The Class Sets
- The financial structure to be maintained by the national body is through the sets
- The sets will be financially committed to paying its dues to the national body
- All the members of sets shall be organised in their different states as state chapters
- Individual dues collected by sets shall not be paid through the states but remitted directly to the national body.

6.4 THE CONSTITUTION

The ADC chairman stated that in discussing the constitution, the approach will be to take a few comments from delegates since a window had been provided and ample time given for delegates to send in their comments on the review of the draft constitution. He observed however that only one person responded to the call. He said it wouldn't be out of place to adopt the draft constitution document while we allow room for more comments to be sent in to help the constitution drafting committee fine-tune the document. He informed delegates that they should rather address the critical aspects of the draft constitution. To begin with, delegates were asked to spot out basic errors observed within the clauses and for them to refer the areas in the constitution which they think deserves to be discussed immediately and where there are no comments, the document will be adopted not as a final constitution document but as a working document which can be used temporarily until the amendments are finalised.

Highlight of the Discussions

- Major. Peter Bisong suggested we take the draft constitution as composed, and adopt it as it is, and appoint delegates particularly those who are lawyers to take a critical look at the document. They can call for suggestions through the ADC forum for other delegates to make their inputs. He said they are expected to spot out all the grey areas, fine-tune them and when we meet in the next meeting we can finally adopt the document.
- Mr. Edet Ukpung stated contrary that in doing so we run the risk of coming back later to do the same thing again as it was expected that delegates forward their comments to the constitution committee when the window was open for feedback and reactions.
- The ADC chairman however regretted the absence of most members of the constitution drafting committee as it was expected that they'll be present to note the observations being raised. He suggested that we allow room for delegates to make their comments as brief as possible with reasons adduced to enable the ADC secretariat take notes. He informed delegates that the window will be kept open for the constitution drafting committee to receive further inputs.
- Dr. Ayemo Ubi sought to know how many among the delegates had ever registered to become a member of the association.
- Major. Peter Bisong responded saying that he has never registered but he knows that there was a time a particular set was asked to register while in school. He thinks we should take the aspect of registration serious and suggested that every member register with the association.
- Barr. Ibanga Udoh strongly advised that the Association should also be registered with Corporate Affairs Commission in order to give it legal backing.
- Sir. Patrick O'neil informed that the constitution we are going to come up with is not the same as what will be required by Corporate Affairs Commission for registration as the template for registration is provided online. He rather sees the constitution being developed as a document which will provide the governance instrument for the association.
- The ADC chairman added that irrespective of whether we need the constitution for registration with CAC or for internal use we still need to develop one.
- Mr. Edet Ukpung noted a key observation in the draft document with the use of different terms used to recognize the same body as there is need to be consistent in the use of the terms to avoid confusion.
- Dr. Nkpanam Essien suggested that for want of time we could pick the constitution by articles and address the provisions. Delegates agreed to his suggestion and following a clause by clause review the following amendments were made: (*Find amendments attached in the Draft Constitution Amendments Document*).

Resolutions

- Constitution drafting committee should amend those areas in the constitution that seeks to exclude the involvement of Diaspora members.

- Constitution drafting committee should make provisions within the constitution to allow Diaspora members who are interested to participate fully in the activities of the association regardless of where they reside as distance shouldn't create a barrier to their involvement in the Association's affairs.
- It was suggested that National Executive Committee should create a platform to enable Diaspora members who are willing to participate in alumni meetings to be connected to such meetings digitally.
- Barr. Oru Ebam, Sebastine Udoh and Ibanga Udoh were co-opted into the constitution drafting committee.

6.6 FINANCE

The ADC Chairman provided the necessary background to the discussion. He asked delegates if levy should be moderated based on year of seniority. By how many years span should the levy be moderated? Two, three, or four years span? Delegates were asked to state their opinions on the issue.

Highlight of the Discussions

- Major. Peter Bisong suggested that the dues be made a flat rate for everyone while the levy should be shared by National Executive Committee to all sets on pro rata basis. He said no set will be levied unless the need arises. Delegates agreed with his position and suggested various amounts as dues.
- Dr. Robert Egot suggested members pay ₦500 monthly which amounts to ₦ 5000 yearly with ₦300 paid to national body and ₦200 given to sets to run their affairs.
- Mr. Ime Inyang supported Dr. Robert's idea to give a percentage of the dues to the sets. He suggested ₦1000 per month where 20% goes back to sets to help them run.
- Mr. Edet Ukpogong urged sets to task themselves an amount way beyond what is agreed, send the agreed amount to national body while they retain the rest. He suggested the sum of ₦1000 monthly or ₦ 12, 000 annually. He wondered if we are meeting at congress as individual sets or for the collective interest.
- Mr. Modey Ugboji suggested annual dues of ₦5, 000 with a percentage given to sets.
- Mr. Dennis Ekpo supports Dr. Robert's position and suggested that members should pay ₦1000 monthly and 60% remitted to National Executive Committee while the sets retain 40%.
- Mrs. Lilian Bassi suggested that ₦ 1000 should be paid as dues with ₦ 500 remitted to National Executive Committee and ₦ 500 retained by sets.
- Mr. Mbiabong Hogan inquired to know what happens to the younger sets. He pleaded that the association should give them a grace period before they start paying dues.
- Mr. Mark Bullems sought to know who will collect the percentage meant for sets. The chairman replied that the leaders of the sets will work with National Executive Committee in that regard. He called on sets that do not presently have their class leaders to go back and elect their representatives.

- Major. Peter Bisong advised delegates that the sets should be secondary and the focus should be on the national body. He said sets should raise funds within their ranks to run their activities.
- Barr. Ibanga Udoh agreed with Major. Bisong but asked to know if any individual who has issues with their sets can pay their dues directly to the national body.
- Mr. Modey said if we must move forward we need to understand the peculiarities of the individual sets and not put too much burden particularly on the younger ones.
- Mr. Nosa Asemota sought clarification on the issue. He asked if the names of those who pay up will be highlighted and sent to the national body for accountability.
- The ADC chairman replied saying this will be done once the association's account is created and becomes operational.

The issue was put to a vote and the result of the vote counted was 40 delegates in support and 8 delegates against.

Resolutions

Majority of the delegates were in support of the following resolutions;

- That levies should be moderated based on year of seniority.
- That levies should be shared on pro-rata basis based on sets.
- That no set will be levied unless there is a need.
- That dues should be paid annually.
- Based on majority vote it was agreed that all members pay monthly dues of ₦500 through their set leaders to the national body's account.
- Arguments were adduced for a fraction of the dues to be retained by the sets. However, this proposal was rejected by majority of the delegates.

8.0 SESSION 2: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

8.1 PROJECTS

1. Proposal for the establishment of a final year research grant by: Arc. Aniebiet Ackley

The proposal is targeted at final year students studying in University of Calabar and Cross River University of Technology as an incentive to help motivate them to participate in alumni activities. Arc. Aniebiet sought the permission of delegates to enable National Executive Committee to embark on the project and solicited their support.

- Major. Peter Bisong thanked him for the lofty initiative which he considers a good idea. He wondered why the project is not open to students from other institutions. He advised that the scheme should be all encompassing and opened to all final year students from every institution of higher learning to give it a national outlook. He suggested that the alumni database can be used to help identify students who are active within the association.
- Arc. Ackley in his response stated that those in UNICAL and CRUTECH appear to be the only two schools for now where we have the institutional chapters. He said we

could start first with these schools as pilots and subsequently make it national in another phase.

- Mr. Sylvester Umoh thanked Arc. Ackley for the initiative and reminded members of the success of a similar initiative (The ThinkFGCIkom Essay Competition) held in 2016. He submitted that, he prefers a scholarship scheme to be put in place to be awarded to best graduating students.
- Barr. Oru Ebam informed that there are other institutions where we have alumni members. He advised that the scheme should be extended to other schools.
- The ADC Chairman agreed with their submissions and appealed that the scheme should have a general outlook.

2. Federal Government College Ikom - Project Campus Connect

Mr. Akpan Benedict informed delegates that the association has its members spread across different institutions of higher learning. He shared an initiative which he is presently working on called the FGC Ikom Campus Connect which will help students network with their peers in other institutions across the country. He sought the permission of delegates and National Executive Committee to enable him to execute the project.

- Mr. lyke Onyensoh wondered how he intends to achieve his plans and promised to provide technical assistance if needed.
- Barr. Romeo Ojong suggested that the class year books could be useful for the project.
- Mr. Ofem Oden pointed out that the institutional chapters face a lot of challenges whenever they try to organize congresses as they do not have any support. He appealed to National Executive Committee to support them whenever they want to do their activities.
- The ADC chairman promised that the association will do its best to support them.
- Major. Peter Bisong added that if the school chapters are functional and work with their leaders at the State Chapters they will help provide the necessary support and also key into their activities.
- Mr. Bassey Etim pleaded with members of the association to always encourage the students whenever they reach out to them for assistance. He urged the students not to relent in their efforts but to continue to stay focused.

3. National Alumni Database

- The ADC chairman stated the need for an alumni database. He said it is very important for networking and tracking of members and for the purpose of planning. He said information such as; name, occupation, date of birth, location, specialization etc. could be included in the database.
- He added that the database when developed will be useful in identifying experts within the association who can be called up to offer their services when the need arises.
- He asked that members of the association who are interested in assisting with the project should notify the ADC Secretariat. He sought to know what the extent of the information in the database will be and the security implication.

- He also asked to know how the information collected will be safeguarded.
- Mr. Edet Ukpung an Information Technology professional was called upon to help provide answers to these questions.
- In his response, Mr. Edet Ukpung informed delegates that one way to go about the project would be to build the database from scratch or leverage on proprietary platforms and trusted services that are available online. The ADC chairman urged delegates to give thought to the idea as we all work towards having a reliable and secured database.

8.2 OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Nkpanam Essien advised that we need to state when next the constitution would be reviewed particularly in the area of dues as what has been proposed cannot effectively run the Association.
- Sir. Patrick O'neil said we should avoid trying to focus so much on sets at the expense of states. He wondered who will fund the next meeting if there are no funds meant for that purpose. He said funds that will be remitted to the national body may be small but as an association we should have a starting point and then see how we can adjust in future. He also drew the attention of the ADC Chairman that AOB is no longer included as part of the agenda in meetings which should be noted.
- The ADC Chairman informed delegates that the Alumni will be having a general meeting in the next few months which would be in the third quarter of the year and it was agreed that the meeting should come up in September. He sought opinions from delegates on the choice of the host city. The following cities were considered; Abuja, Lagos, Uyo and Port Harcourt which was later streamlined to Uyo, Abuja and Port Harcourt. He said delegates are to decide by voting on the ADC forum for the host city. It was finally agreed that the general meeting should come up on Saturday 29th September 2018 at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

10.0 SUMMARY

Congress Recommendations and Communiqué

Find in the attached documents (*the congress recommendations and final Communiqué*)

11.0 CLOSING

Closing Remarks:

Major. Peter Bisong thanked delegates for their contributions and urged them to continue to show commitment and sacrifice to the alumni cause. He urged them to go back to their groups and continue to show commitment by attending meetings and contributing financially. He said no association thrives without finances and since we don't have external support we must pool the resources from amongst us. He added further that the way forward for us all is to sacrifice for the alumni cause. He asked delegates to take back with them this message to their respective groups and live with it. He made a cash donation of ₦ 10,000 each to UNICAL and CRUTECH chapters.

In his closing remarks, the national President said he had done more of listening than talking. He informed delegates that a new principal Mrs. Bassey Duke has been appointed for the College. He promised that the National Executive Committee will help strengthen the state chapters by working with the various coordinators. He urged the state coordinators to start meeting at least quarterly. The President promised that by the 15th of March the National Executive Committee will try and set up the association's account and get it running. He reminded delegates that a general meeting has been fixed for September 29, 2018 at Uyo and hoped to see everyone of them at the meeting.

He encouraged UNICAL and CRUTECH chapters to always inform the national body of their activities and promised to support them where possible. He thanked all the delegates for their sacrifice and commitment. He notified delegates that the 30th anniversary of the College will come up by April 2019 which he believes will be a grand ceremony. A cash donation of ₦ 15, 000 each was made by the President to UNICAL and CRUTECH chapters.

The ADC Chairman informed delegates that the draft Communiqué was ready. The National Publicity Secretary, Arc Aniebiet Ackley read the draft Communiqué to delegates stating all the outcomes of the congress. The ADC Chairman thanked everyone for staying the cause and that the highpoint for him was talking to them individually and also seeing their faces in the congress. He informed that as leaders of opinion wherever we find ourselves we must be able to infect others positively and become a rallying point at our individual levels.

Vote of thanks

Mr. Bassey Etim gave the vote of thanks and commended everyone for making the meeting a very successful one. He thanked all those who supported financially particularly members of the National Executive Committee and the 1994 set for their donations. He also thanked Dr. Ayemo Ubi for his financial support. He thanked everyone who travelled from afar and prayed that the Almighty God grant everyone safety to their destinations. He said the road may be rough but he believes they will get to their destinations. Finally, he thanked Mrs. Liclah Flora Uko and Sir. Patrick O'neal for providing the catering services and organizing other aspects of the event planning.

Adjournment

The motion for adjournment of the meeting to September 29, 2018 at Uyo was moved by Sir. Patrick O'neal. The motion was seconded by Arc. Kenneth Edagha.

Closing

The meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

Signed:

Mr. Emmanuel Okpo Ita
ADC Chairman

Mr. Charles Asirra
National Alumni Secretary General

Mr. Christian Johnson
National Alumni President