

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE 2020 FOURTH QUARTER (Q4)  
DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATIONS OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES (CAANU) HELD AT  
THE KADUNA STATE UNIVERSITY (KASU), MAIN CAMPUS,  
KADUNA FROM THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> TO SATURDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER,  
2020**

**PREAMBLE**

The 2020 fourth Quarter (Q4) Conference of Alumni Associations of Nigerian Universities (CAANU) Delegates Conference meeting took place at the Kaduna State University (KASU), Main Campus, Kaduna from Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th November, 2020 with delegates from the following Universities:

1. Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria;
2. Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma;
3. Bauchi State University, Gadau;
4. Benue State University, Makurdi;
5. Delta State University, Abraka;
6. Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi;
7. Federal University of Technology, Akure;
8. Gombe State University, Gombe;
9. Kaduna State University, Kaduna;
10. Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola;
11. Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye;
12. Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun;
13. University of Calabar, Calabar;
14. University of Jos, Jos;
15. University of Mkar, Mkar;
16. University of Uyo, Uyo;
17. Yobe State University, Damaturu.

A courtesy call was made on His Excellency Malam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, *OFR, fniqs*, the Governor of Kaduna State, who was ably represented by Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe. The Vice-Chancellor of Kaduna State University, Professor Muhammad Tanko was similarly visited and later declared the 2020 Fourth Quarter (Q.4) Delegates Conference open.

The formal Opening Ceremony of the event was graced by eminent Nigerians including His Excellency, the former Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo, GCON; His Excellency, the Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir Ahmed el-Rufai, ably represented by the Permanent Secretary, Kaduna State Ministry of Education, Mrs Phoebe Sukai Yayi; the Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Dame Pauline Tallen, ably represented by Mall. Ahmed A. Chiroma, Member, Presidential Think Tank on Defence and Security; the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, represented by a Director, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Yakasai and the Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim, DSS, PhD., all who were given Awards of Excellence for their contributions to education development in Nigeria.

The Delegates Conference was inundated with the earlier activities of the Association which include: the earlier investiture of the Emir of Bauchi, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Rilwanu Suleimanu Adamu, *CFR*, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 as Patron of CAANU in Bauchi; the investiture of the Emir of Lafia, HRH Hon. Justice Sidi Muhammad Bage I, *JSC* (Rtd.) as a Patron of CAANU in Lafia on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2020; the formal commissioning of the National Secretariat of CAANU at the Federal Ministry of Education Annex, Central Business District, Abuja by His Excellency, the Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 which also had in presence the Honourable Minister for Education, Mal. Adamu Adamu, ably represented by the Director of Tertiary Education, Hafiya Rakiya Iliyasu, and was the Chairman of the Occasion; the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Prof. Is'haq Oloyede, the Vice Chancellor, Nasarawa State University (NSU), Keffi, Prof. S. B. Mohammed, among other dignitaries. The investiture of the Emir of Zazzau, His Highness, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli as a Patron of CAANU took place in the palace in Zaria on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Thereafter, the meeting commenced its technical session in sequence of its agenda where the following resolutions were arrived at:

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

The meeting observed with great concern the ongoing nationwide strike embarked upon by the members of the Academic Staff Unions of Universities (ASUU) in Public Universities which had totally crippled academic activities in most Nigerian Universities.

The meeting also noted the activities of some recalcitrant members who lost elections in CAANU and now claimed to have registered a rival umbrella association.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

The meeting appreciated the commitment of the Governors of Kaduna and Nasarawa States as they allocated 26% and 31% respectively to education in their 2021 budget proposals. It, therefore, urged Governments at every level in the country to emulate this positive gesture which will no doubt positively impact education development in Nigeria.

The meeting expressed disappointment with the slow pace of resolution on the strike action embarked upon by members of ASUU. It urged the Federal Government to quicken the interaction with the ASUU to ensure a lasting resolution of “problematic issues” involved. It also called upon the Government at various levels to always honour agreements with labour unions in the Universities to prevent repetition of the unfortunate situation. The Government should improve its financial commitment to ensure provision of adequate modern infrastructures for teaching, learning and research in the Universities.

Also, the meeting re-emphasised the earlier call on members on the National Assembly to use the opportunity of deliberating on the 2021 Appropriation Bill and subsequent ones to include the financial demands of ASUU for the development of education in the country. This will help to reposition the university education in Nigeria and as well, resolve the perennial crises of industrial discord in the university system. The Government was also urged to be conscious and respect all agreements with the unions and ensure implementation of such from time to time.

CAANU shall have a strategic interactive session with major stakeholders in the university system, including the labour unions, coordinating ministries and agencies, National Assembly Committees on Education, among others with a view to resolving all issues affecting the university system and device alternative means of pressing home the demands of the university-based unions beside incessant closure of the Nigerian Universities.

CAANU hope to come up with practicable way forward that would involve every Nigerian and other stakeholders in funding the education sector. The CAANU’s recommendations shall be made available to the Government and policy makers for implementation.

In furtherance to the resolution of the meeting held at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nasarawa State, CAANU held investitures for the following distinguished Nigerians as Patrons: His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Rilwanu Suleimanu Adamu, *CFR*, the Emir of Bauchi, Bauchi State; His Royal Highness, Hon. Justice Sidi Bage Muhammad I, *JSC* (Rtd.) the Emir of Lafia, Nasarawa State and His Highness, Ambassador Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, the Emir of Zazzau, Kaduna State. The investitures of His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, the Ooni of Ife; that of His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II, the Oba of Benin and of His Royal Majesty, Igwe (Dr) Nnaemeka Alfred Ugochuwku Achebe, *CFR, mni*, the Obi of Onitsha would be held in 2021. The Patrons expressed willingness and commitment to support CAANU at all times towards achieving its objectives. They also commended the sacrifices of the CAANU leadership, considering it as a national service.

The meeting condemned and completely dissociated itself from the activities of some members who lost at CAANU elections, became aggrieved and went ahead to register a rival alumni umbrella body. It described their actions as unfortunate, retrogressive, self-servicing and counterproductive. It therefore called on various stakeholders and the general public to be critical of the activities of these individuals in order not to fall victim of their predation as CAANU has been in existence since 1984 (36 years ago).

CAANU approved 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 for the 2021 First Quarter (Q.1) Delegates Conference to be hosted by the Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

*Signed*  
**Professor Ahmed Tijjani Mora, mni**  
*Chairman, CAANU*  
28/11/2020

*Signed*  
**Dr. Godwin Akpan**  
*Secretary, CAANU*  
28/11/2020