OPEN LETTER TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON THE UNILAG SAGA

Dear Sir,

We, the concerned alumni of the University of Lagos, wish to request from you answers to the following questions:

1. Why did you set up an inappropriate Panel to investigate the removal of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos? Why did your Ministry produce a term of Reference that were deliberately designed to cover up the scandalous mismanagement of the University of Lagos by Professor Oguindegbe?

2. Why did you dispel a brilliant, purposeful and selfless body of external members of Governing Council of the University of Lagos made up of the following persons?
   - Dr. O. B. Rabudaki, (Chairman)
   - (Ahmed Ali) Hussein
   - Rev. Yemfark (not sure)
   - Dr. Samimi Dagarai
   - Dr. Alye Adetayo

The Chairman of the Panel noted in his letter to you on 7th December 2020 that the Special Investigation Panel set up for the University of Lagos, was not an objective Panel. It was based on the notion as it was clearly and openly one-sided. To buttress this, the Chairman remarked that:

"When you read the Report, you will notice that it was very one-sided so as to spell, the option was for the Chancellor to refuse to sign the report and would have been a slap on the Government’s face.”

3. Why did you remove an outstanding Governing Council to support a Management that has engaged in contract splitting which is a crime under Sections 206 and 58(b) of the Procurement Act? In the words of the Chairman:

"The force of the issue of splitting contracts so that the figures would be within his approved limits, that the vote of his house and that some Principal officers in his evidence said clear, one Contractor would be given four contracts so the subject on the same day each package to be within its approved level.”

Honourable Minister, this sort of criminal act should not occur in any decent society much less a University. Is this the sort of University that the Ministry of Education wants?

The Panel also saw evidence of frivolous expenditure which was one of the reasons why Professor Oguindegbe was removed from office. According to the Chairman:

"On the issue of frivolous expenditure of the core mandate of the University, teaching and learning, it is pertinent to note that the Chancellor of the University has appointed a number of Adhoc lecturers, with the term of reference of the panel fixed in such a way that the same group would take more than 17 external lecturers costing millions of Naira, while the total annual salary (TVS) of all the Directors of the University was just N5.5 million per annum.

Some of the known cronies of the Vice-Chancellor are:

(a) Professor Selphade Ogafora (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Management Services)
(b) Professor Osueh Ekanolio (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)

With their number of trips, the cronies of Professor Oguindegbe probably travelled more than the Minister of Foreign Affairs. During these trips, Professor Oguindegbe and Prof Famolin collected estacado and local running expenses. This is direct unlawful conversion of Government resources. Sir, by remitting Professor Oguindegbe, your Ministry has saved this redless spending by the Management of the University of Lagos. Is it government's policy to support the looting of the University? Your appointment of Professor Sadu Omojola as acting Vice-Chancellor, who is Oguindegbe's ex-travailer in the gross mismanagement of University of Lagos, shows clearly that the Ministry of Education is not fighting any corruption.

The Bursary of the University either participated in fraud or connived fraud. Yet, you reinstated this Management. Is it government’s policy to condone financial crime? According to the Chairman of the Panel:

"On the accusation of Management being financial status of the University from Council, the National Assembly, and all the media, the University has not made public any form of this statement. Thehideous form of the statement was not publicly made as it was against the policies of the University. However, the same, TVS 57.000, is an opportunity for the University to go as the other Universities in the South. To stop the University from taking the task of the Council, the University has refused to accept the recommendation of the Panel, the Panel had the following in mind.

- There are a number of issues that may have been glossed over in the report since the VC had to get time to delve into those issues. The recommendation of the panel that the VC should be reinstated is as follows.

But there are a number of issues that may have been glossed over in the report since the VC had time to delve into those issues. The recommendation of the Panel that the VC should be reinstated is as follows."

That did you have to go this far in undermining the educational system in Nigeria is to protect Oguindegbe's gross mismanagement of the University of Lagos?

We, the concerned alumni of the University of Lagos, “Unilag for Good,” demand answers to those questions.

Professor Boniface OYE-ADENIRAN, mni.
For and on behalf of concerned alumni of the University of Lagos (Unilag for Good).
Retired Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medical University of Lagos. Member, University of Lagos Appointments and Promotions Board, 2003-2006.
Member, University of Lagos Governing Council, 2017 to 2019.

OOUR REPORT ONE-SIDED - PROF SAAD

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Dated: October 17, 2020

Honourable Minister of Education,

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing to bring to your attention some critical issues that have emerged during the recent review of the management of the University of Lagos (Unilag).

The University of Lagos is one of the leading institutions of higher education in Nigeria, and it plays a crucial role in the country's educational and social development. As such, it is imperative that the management of the University is conducted with utmost transparency and accountability.

I have been following the events surrounding the recent replacement of the Vice-Chancellor of Unilag, Professor Oluwatoyin Oginnide, with particular interest. The suspension of the Vice-Chancellor and the appointment of a new one has raised several concerns among stakeholders, including students, faculty members, and alumni.

One of the main concerns is the process that led to the replacement of the Vice-Chancellor. There have been allegations of impropriety and conflict of interest, which have cast doubt on the legitimacy of the decision. These concerns have been raised by various groups, including the Nigerian Union of Students (NUS) and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA).

As a concerned citizen and a former student of Unilag, I urge you to ensure that the University's management is conducted in a manner that upholds the principles of fairness, equity, and transparency. It is essential that the decision-making process is robust, and that all stakeholders are given an opportunity to participate and voice their concerns.

I also urge you to ensure that the new Vice-Chancellor is provided with the necessary support to address the challenges facing the University. Unilag is an institution of high importance, and its success is crucial for the development of Nigeria.

In conclusion, I call on you to take bold and decisive actions to restore confidence in the University of Lagos. The efficiency and effectiveness of the University's management are critical for the future of higher education in Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Position]