

THE EVOLUTION OF ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ESUT)

(Being the keynote Speech Delivered By Emeritus Professor F.C. Eze, Pioneer Registrar of ESUT, at the Founder's Day Celebration Held on Friday 25th November 2022 at the Amadeo Events Centre Enugu).

1. PROTOCOL

- His Excellency the Rt Hon (Dr.) Ifeanyichukwu Lawrence Ugwuanyi, (CON), The Executive Governor of Enugu State and Visitor to ESUT.
- His Excellency Chief (Dr.) Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo, Former Governor of Old Anambra State and Founder Visitor of Erstwhile ASUTECH, Enugu
- His Excellencies, Former Governors of Enugu State and Former Visitors to ESUT
- Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo
- Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani
- Barr. Iheanacho Chime
- Distinguished Chairman of this occasion Very Rev. Professor Chinedu Nebo, Former Minister of Power and Former Vice Chancellor of two Federal Universities
- Members of Enugu State Executive Council present.
- Distinguished Chancellor of ESUT, His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr.) Hassan Adamu (CON), Wakili Adamawa
- The Pro Chancellor of ESUT and Chairman of the Governing Council, Most Revd Professor Godfrey Igwebuile Onah and Members of the Governing Council
- Former Pro Chancellors of ESUT present
- The Vice Chancellor, Professor Aloysius Michaels Okolie and Members of the ESUT Senate
- Deputy Vice Chancellor of ESUT and Other Principal Officers of ESUT
- Former Principal and Other Principal Officers of ESUT Present
- Members of ESUT Congregation and Convocation Present
- Your Royal Highnesses Present\My Lords Spiritual and Temporal
- Distinguished Almuni Present.
- My dear Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. INTRODUCTION

I consider it a great honour to have been invited by the Vice Chancellor of the Enugu State University of Science and Technology to give this keynote speech on the subject of *The Evolution of ESUT* on this innovative occasion of the *Founder's Day Ceremony* during which the proposed ESUT Convocation Arena would be unveiled. May I thank the Vice Chancellor of our very dear ESUT and through him thank the organs of governance and management of the University for this most significant development.

As most of us know Enugu State of Nigeria, the proud owner of ESUT, came into being on the 27th of August 1991, to become one of the thirty six states of the Nigerian

Federation. It was when the then Military President of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babangida was persuaded to listen to the long standing agitations of the Wawa people for a State they could call their own. The State appropriately derived its name from the capital city, Enugu, to the glory of God.

But the University that lawfully and appropriately became ESUT, (namely ASUTECH) had existed for over a decade before the creation of Enugu State. Our discussion will therefore begin with the very commendable creation of Anambra State/University of Technology popularly known as and called ASUTECH.

3. FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASUTECH THAT BECAME ESUT

This first university of technology in Nigeria, was the vision of the then Governor of erstwhile Anambra State Chief Dr. Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo. It was founded on the 30th of July 1980, when the Anambra State House of Assembly enacted by a majority of one vote that came from Anambra North (Wawa domain) Law No 7 of 1980 that created the University! Conceived and delivered as a four campus University, two of which should take off simultaneously (being Enugu and Awka Campuses) while the other two (Onitsha and Abakaliki) were to take off subsequently, ASUTECH became a vision come true and the pride of Anambra State.

4. FACILITATIVE TAKE OFF ACTIONS AND ENTAILED RELATED CHALLENGES

The eminent international scholar Professor Kenneth Onwuka Dike was appointed the University President and Chairman of the 15 man Provisional Council that was smartly inaugurated on 15th August 1980 with Professor S.C. Ukpabi Provost for Administration in respect of Enugu Campus, as member and secretary. A novel structural arrangement was put in place.

Enugu Campus that had the advantage of being housed in IMT Campus 2 facilities at Independence Layout, was able to admit 276 students and to take off on schedule on 30th October, 1980 while Awka Campus that had to rent buildings and related facilities opened for academic activities on 5th January, 1981 with 100 students shifted from Enugu Campus to Awka on 3rd January 1981.

Structured differently from other Nigerian Universities, the presidential system which formed the bedrock of ASUTECH Administration, generated enormous challenges for easy relationship and communication with other universities and relevant bodies.

The President fulfilled three key functions and thus wore three caps as follows:

- Chancellor and therefore titular or ceremonial head of the University.
- Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Council.

- Vice Chancellor, Executive head of the University, Chairman of the Senate and Chief academic officer of the university.

The President was however, assisted in the performance of his duties by a Deputy President. Campuses were headed by Provosts for Administration. The first batch of students (276 in number) were all admitted in two take - off Faculties of Engineering and Life Engineering in Enugu Campus and academic activities commenced on 30th October, 1980, as reported above.

The University Law had no provision for the Office of the Registrar in the Administration while the Law provided that “there shall be Secretary to the Senate” and “Campus Registrars” to work with the Provosts for Administration. After the Senate was inaugurated with only 7 members on June 5 1981, the President appointed me Secretary to the Senate at its 2nd meeting and there was no change till I left the university in 1999. There was provision in the Law, however for “a Bursar” and “University Librarian”.

The foregoing presented a major challenge in the matter of ASUTECH officers being unable to join such national committees as Committee of Pro Chancellors, Committee of Vice Chancellors and Committee of Registrars.

Directorate system that was also adopted helped more to isolate ASUTECH registrarial and senior administrative personnel as ASUTECH had the following Directorates:

- Directorate of Academic Affairs.
- Directorate of General Administration.
- Directorate of Personal Affairs
- Directorate of Planning Budgetting and Controlling.
- Directorate of Public Affairs

The Visitor, Chief Dr. Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo, the founder Visitor, was liberal in providing for the financial needs of the University. But the socio – economic environment was harsh. The problem of inadequate funding began to snow ball and to gradually become visible and worrisome. The President suspended temporary buildings he had embarked upon in Awka Campus that was operating in rented structures on account of inadequate funding.

5. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITY

The official opening of the University and the first Matriculation ceremony took place on 2nd May, 1981. The event attracted giant visitors from the university world. The first President of Nigeria, late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Dr. Michael Okpara and several other political leaders graced the occasion with their presence. The Visitor’s address during the occasion was not only very apt and rich, it was very confidently delivered and it left no one in doubt that the State Government was determined to fund and equip ASUTECH as a model University of Technology in Nigeria. It was indeed a glorious beginning!

6. STAFF REVIEW AND IDENTIFICATION OF BUILT UP CHALLENGES

After the official opening, Academic, Senior Administrative and Secretarial Staff were reviewed and regraded as a strategy to boost their morale that was beginning to sag. A meeting of the President with the two Provosts and Senate Secretary (F.C. Eze) to consider the challenges facing the University for well reasoned presentation to the Council and the Visitor, was held in early a March 1983. The following challenges were identified for expeditious actions.

- (i) The problem of recognition of and respect for ASUTECH by relevant organisations, associations and ASUTECH peers.
- (ii) Problem posed by the Presidential and Directorate system in Nigerian Higher Education and Commonwealth Universities contexts.
- (iii) Problem of establishing the procedural structures that constitute the bedrock of university management and administration.
- (iv) Recognition by and relationship with NUC and JAMB.
- (v) Problem of registration and gazetting ASUTECH as a Public Service Organisation for the purpose of Staff pensions and gratuities – to facilitate transfer of service in respect of personnel desiring to join or leave ASUTECH and to enhance retention of personnel.
- (vi) Renovation of the 32 buildings in the staff village that had been walled in, so as to provide suitable accommodation for very senior personnel.
- (vii) Amendment of certain portions of the University Law (No 7 of 1980) as already advised by the Council.
- (viii) Production of Draft Financial Regulations.
- (ix) Production of Guidelines/Regulations for the Appointment and Promotion of
 - Academic Staff
 - Senior Admin and Professional Staff and
 - Junior Staff
- (x) Need for adequate funding of on – going projects in the two operational Campuses.

At the end of the meeting the President announced the impending arrival of Professor Cyril Onwumechili (Vice Chancellor of the then University of Ife) to join ASUTECH as Deputy President, and by mid – March 1983 Professor C.A. Onwumechili arrived and commenced duty as Deputy President.

With the arrival of the Deputy President, the Faculty of Life Engineering was split into two Faculties of Applied Biological Sciences and Applied Physical Sciences and departments were shared as follows between Enugu and Awka Campuses (even of Awka remained in rented facilities):

Enugu Campus

- (i) Electrical/Electronic Engineering and Computer Science.
- (ii) Chemical Engineering
- (iii) Mechanical and Production Engineering
- (iv) Civil Engineering
- (v) Applied Biochemistry
- (vi) Applied Biology
- (vii) Industrial Chemistry
- (viii) Industrial Physics

Awka Campus

- (i) Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
- (ii) Mechanical and Production Engineering
- (iii) Civil Engineering
- (iv) Industrial Microbiology
- (v) Food Science and Brewing
- (vi) Geological Science
- (vii) Applied Mathematics/Statistics

Proposals were taken through the Senate and the Council for new courses in the 1985/86 academic year. Post Graduate Programme commenced in the 1982/83 academic year, the idea being that PG would strengthen undergraduate programmes.

On 30th September 1983 the foundation Visitor of ASUTECH Chief Jim Ifeanyichukwu Nwobodo was replaced as the State Governor and Visitor by Chief C.C. Onoh. Meanwhile the two Provosts had produced as directed by the President, a comprehensive brief on the University with request for funds as indicated hereunder; to meet institutional crying needs:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Enugu Campus: | N4,393,000 |
| Awka Campus: | N6,350,000 |

7. CHIEF C.C. ONOH AS NEW GOVERNOR AND VISITOR

The President's forwarding communication to the new Governor and Visitor, was dated 27th September 1983. On Friday 21st October 1983, I had obtained from the Provost for Administrations permission for absence on Monday the 24th of October but had not left office when the President invited me to see him in the lodge urgently. On my getting there, he informed me that I should do well to personally deliver an important mail from him, to the new Governor and Visitor Chief C.C. Onoh and to bring back to him, any feedback – before proceeding to my own pursuit as already approved by the Provost. When I got the mail, I asked to be allowed to go with the duplicate copy also and was

allowed to do so. Chief C.C. Onoh had left office and had not moved into Government House.

I therefore drove to Ngwo. While I was explaining my mission to the gate keepers, the Governor standing at the second floor window, saw me and shouted to those at the gate to grant me passage. He rapidly tore open the mail, thumbed through the papers and said, “why not! Dike is a gentleman, I will work with him and support the University”. I quickly requested him to write his “return message” on the duplicate copy which I presented to him. He obliged and I left his residence with a sense of satisfaction. On getting back to the President he marveled at the speed of delivery and quality of reply and pulling a paper, he wrote me a note that I have kept to this day.

“Dear Eze I did not expect this speed of reply. Thank you very much and keep it up KOD 21/10/83”.

It is against the foregoing that while at home burying my cousin, the Deputy President who visited me for condolences, informed me that our very dear President died on Wednesday, 26th October 1983. Darkness enveloped me. A long period of mourning descended on both the University Community and the State. The Deputy President set up six committees to plan for the late President’s funeral events in both Enugu and Awka. The events commenced in Enugu on 15th November 1983 and in Awka (late President’s home village) on Saturday 18th November 1983. It was very well attended by the global academic community as well as academic community in Nigeria as well as by global university representatives.

Not long after the President’s burial the new Governor of the State and Visitor, Chief C.C. Onoh lost his daughter in very fatal air disaster in Enugu which development played havoc to certain scheduled meetings with the university leadership. Our financial squeeze continued to persist, leading the State Government under the Military Governor that replaced Chief C.C. Onoh, being Navy Captain Madueke, to decide on the merger of ASUTECH and IMT for the two institutions to formally share the use of Workshop and laboratory items of equipment stock – piled by the foundation Rector of IMT Professor Chijioke. The merger arrangement was to ensure the accreditation of ASUTECH engineering programmes by the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN) to expand and strengthen ASUTECH and IMT and to save costs.

The Report and Recommendations of the Technical Committee on the merger were strongly positive. Merger took place with ASUTECH programmes expanded to include Educational Technology in a Faculty of Education, Environmental Sciences, Management Sciences and Law. All IMT programmes were retained (with prospects for students to proceed to degree programmes) within the University Institute. The two Regulatory organs (NUC and NBTE) duly consulted, supported the arrangement. Students were processed and duly admitted through JAMB, into the programmes. Awka Campus of ASUTECH was closed with staff and students moved into Enugu.

8. DE – MERGER AND OUTCOME

But a powerful lobby in Awka and Onitsha Zones of Anambra South emerged and even petitioned the Supreme Military Council. Three “IMT students” approached the State High Court and actioned against the merger – which action the Chief Justice of the State granted. Demerger and Joint Council of IMT and ASUTECH became the sad out come. A Council to govern a University and a Polytechnic!

Consequent on the ruling of the Chief Judge of Anambra State (Hon Justice P.K Nwokedi) ASUTECH and IMT were demerged. Edict 19 of 1985 was issued by Group Captain Emeka Omeruah which Edict established *ONE* Council under the Chairmanship of Professor Chukuedu Nwokolo to govern the two separate institutions. Professor C.A. Onumechili, ASUTECH President was reduced from the position of President to that of Acting Vice Chancellor, with Presidential structure dismantled. Contrary to the expectation in certain quarters that Professor Onwumechili would resign, he remained faithful to Professor K.O. Dike and stayed on as Ag. Vice Chancellor and member of IJC with its office in the Government House and its Secretary as a Permanent Secretary (a Civil Servant).

He continued to work diligently inspite of inadequate funding and unmitigated political interference in the running of ASUTECH as university founded by one of the most famous world class university leaders in the person of Professor Kenneth Onwuka Dike.

On 30th of December 1985, Group Captain Emeka Omeruah, issued Edict 20 to formalise the structure of ASUTECH under the conventional arrangement with Chancellor, Pro Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and other normal Officerships. He appointed Professor Gaius Igboeli as Pro Chancellor and Professor Onwumechili as Vice Chancellor.

Apart from transforming ASUTECH structurally from the Presidential to the conventional system, Edict 15a of December 2, 1985 shared the expanded programmes of the University between Enugu and Awka Campuses thus:

Enugu: Engineering/Technology; and Management Sciences
Awka: Basic and Applied sciences Social Sciences and Law

In respect of Abakaliki and Onitsha Campuses programmes originally assigned by the ANS Law 7 of 1980 were re-affirmed as follows:

Abakaliki: Agricultural Sciences including Aqua culture and Veterinary Medicine
Onitsha: Health Sciences including Medicine and Dentistry

The Edict also provided for Enugu as the Administrative headquarters of the University – an important feature lacking in the commencement Law No 7 of 1980. The Edict stated that, “the administrative head quarters of the University shall be in Enugu”.

8.1 CREATION OF PRE – SCIENCE AND MATURE PROGRAMMES

The 35th meeting of the Senate of the University was held on Wednesday 17th December 1986 at which the Senate considered and approved two strategic programmes namely; Pre Science programme to enhance the prospects of increased number of student - intake in respect of science based courses and Mature students programme. Pre Science programme was to offer one year intensive programme in basic sciences and to offer direct admission into science – based courses to suitably qualified products of the programme. Mature students programme was designed for capable working class adults willing to go through university education at reduced fee, in certain areas of study. Members of the Senate were very pleased with the development considering the strategic nature of the two programmes. On the same date, Professor Onwumehili, after endorsing my usual “Action sheet” in respect of the decisions of the Senate handed over to me his withdrawal from ASUTECH letter for delivery to the Secretary to the State Government (Engr. A.U. Otiji), with a copy to the Chairman of the Governing Council Professor Gaus Igboeli. He explained that having finished four years, he needed no renewal of his appointment.

9. ASUTECH UNDER PROFESSOR CHIWEYITE EJIKE

He assumed duty that same 17th December 1986. A member of the first Provisional Council under the late Professor K.O. Dike, Professor Chiweyite Ejike, (Professor of Zoology in the University of Jos) was not new to the university. His immediate concern on having assumed duty was how to open the two Campuses of Abakaliki and Onitsha – that shifted to Nnewi for logistic reasons. Professor Chinua Achebe was the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Council. Inadequate funding was still a big problem. The Vice Chancllor labored hard to enlist the interest and co-operation of the local people in both Abakaliki and Nnewi. He tried very hard to ignore the strong dichotomy that had built up in the old Anambra State between Anambra North and Anambra South (that had not wanted ASUTECH in the first instance). The merger of ASUTECH and IMT and subsequent demerger, heightened the negative impact of dichotomy. The new Vice Chancellor’s efforts to show an early indication of his independent mindedness was neither believed, nor accepted. Nonetheless, he was able to open both Abakaliki and Nnewi, in 1987 using the pre science programme to attract local support. While Nnewi Community rallied round under Chief Augustine Ilodigwe (Ekenedirichukwu), Igwe Orizu, Dr. Dozie Ikedife and other Nnewi leaders. Abakaliki was not as forth coming in providing structural facilities.

ASUTECH under Professor Chiweyite Ejike was punctuated with Visitations and administrative enquiries that were politically motivated and driven as well as profoundly distracting. The outcome of all that was for the people of Anambra North to strongly unite in their agitations to have a State of their own.

9.1 JUSTICE OKECHUKWU ADIMORA VISITATION PANEL AND OUTCOME

As Col R.N. Akonobi took over from Group Captain Emeka Omeruah as Military Governor of the old Anambra State and Visitor to ASUTECH, he quickly succumbed to pressure from Anambra South and set up a Visitation Panel the Chairman and over whelming majority of the members were from Anambra South. Within weeks the Panel concluded its exercise and submitted its Report and Recommendations that were upheld first, the Government white paper and subsequently the Visitor's white paper without delay and followed by the Council under Prof. Gaius Igboeli was compelled by the Visitor's Order to sit through the night to implement Military Governor's directives.

The outcome included the issuance of Edict 9 of 1988 that created four virtually autonomous for Campuses (Enugu, Awka, Abakaliki and Nnewi) each with its Council Academic Board Council Chairman, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Bursar and etc. Each got direct funding from the State. The Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Bursar and Librarian at the centre were virtually trying to control four horses running in different directions. The novel approach did not enhance ASUTECH funding. Poverty was being managed!

Another strange but interesting outcome of the Visitation was the reduction in rank of 33 Academic staff including Professors, Readers and senior Lecturers all from Anambra North (Wawa land). The outcome of that Visitation deepened and widened the dichotomy and its related syndromes. In Wawa land, agitations for a State of their own continued to mount. On 27th August 1991 however, Col Akonobi left Enugu, and Col. Herbert Obi Eze arrived with Enugu State created.

10. CRUCIAL MEETING WITH NUC IN LAGOS

The National Universities Commission called for an urgent meeting in its office in Lagos and required Vice Chancellors, Registrars and Bursars of universities in newly created states.

Even though the invitation letter arrived the Vice Chancellor's Office early enough, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Awka Campus looking after the Vice Chancellor's office kept us in Enugu in the dark. He got back to Awka and made early adequate arrangement to travel to Lagos with the Deputy Registrar for that Campus. Somehow, I get wind of the meeting and decided to travel with the Bursar Mr. G.C. Akachukwu. I contacted HRH Igwe Edward Nnaji and Chief Enechi Onyia both of Enugu State Development Association that was meeting at the Igwe's palace a day to the date of meeting in Lagos ESDA provided us with money to travel as the Vice Chancellor who travelled to Australia while asking the Deputy Vice Chancellor Awka Campus to look after his office, had ordered the Bursar not to release more than N200 to anyone until his return.

At the airport early in the morning, we were surprised to see a long stretch of passengers waiting to board. It was clear we had no travelling chance. I sighted the Deputy Vice

Chancellor and his DR moving to board the plane, in total agony. Fortunately Col. Anthony Obi (Rtd) of Nkanu extraction saw me and heard our plight. He had booked early for flight to Lagos. He opted to wait for the 10.30 flight and gave me his 8 am ticket, refusing to take the fare from me. Both the Deputy Vice Chancellor and his DR and I arrived Lagos at 9 am for the 10 am meeting. At the venue of the meeting, Professor Chiweyite Ejike and Mr. F.C. Eze were called in. Professor Oli who had no paper to show that Chiweyite Ejike appointed him to act as Vice Chancellor in his absence, was denied entry, while I got in. It was at that meeting that I was issued with the guidelines for sharing of assets and liabilities of ASUTECH between Enugu and new Anambra State University. I returned ESDA their money, on safe return from Lagos to their surprise. The asset sharing arrangement for universities affected by new State creation.

11. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT BY COL HERBERT OBI EZE NEW MILITARY GOVERNOR, ENUGU STATE

On Tuesday 22nd October 1991, the Military Governor of the new Enugu State Col. Herbert Obi Eze, made an important Public Service Announcement as follows:

With the recent creation of two states out of the former Anambra State and the subsequent sharing of the assets and liabilities of the former Anambra State University of Science and Technology (ASUTECH) between the two States, in which the College of Engineering and Technology, Enugu Campus. The College of Agricultural Science Abakaliki Campus and the Headquarters of the University at Enugu have been allocated to Enugu State, the Government of Enugu State of Nigeria, has now reconstituted these Colleges and the Headquarters of the erstwhile University into THE ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ESUT) with Headquarters at Enugu. All former documents of the erstwhile ASUTECH which relate to the Colleges so reconstituted including the Headquarters at Enugu remain valid as property of the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT).

No wonder the 1992 Edition of the **Commonwealth Universities Year Book** listed ESUT as the University that had commenced in 1980 as Anambra State University of Technology. ESUT is the RETAINER of ASUTECH IDENTITY.

12. PROFESSOR JULIUS ONUORA ONAH (1992 – 99) AS VICE CHANCELLOR

ESUT that had inherited ASUTECH commenced evolving from where ASUTECH stopped, with very good officership that included, Chief E.O. Shonekan as Chancellor, Hon Justice Anthony A.N. Aniagolu (JSC retired) as Pro Chancellor, Professor Julius Onuora Onah as Vice Chancellor, Professor Christian Nwachukwu Okeke as Deputy Vice Chancellor (until he left ESUT on leave of absence). Professor T.C. Nwodo replaced him,

Mr. F.C. Eze as Registrar, Mr. G.C. Akachukwu as Bursar and Dr. Ngozi Ene (Mrs.) as University Librarian.

Efforts were geared towards getting:

- The Medical Faculty (lost to Nnewi) re-established in Abakaliki
- Law Faculty (lost to Awka) re-established in Enugu
- Opening and developing Adada Campus to maintain consistency in the multi campus culture of the founding fathers of the university
- Strengthening the Pre Science programme in Abakaliki with a viable Faculty of Agricultural Science
- Strengthening Mature Students programme
- Expanding its scope and establishing a Business School in Lagos

And these received the serious attention of Professor J.O. Onah's Administration. The climate of peace and good will prevailed in the University.

The problem of inadequate funding continued to hamper growth and development. But ESUT enjoyed the benefit of a Visitor that had listening ears at least for a while, being when His Excellency Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo was on the saddle. After Professor Onah was renewed for another four year (second) term, ESUT environment changed – as if to say that even though the university law (at that material time) provided for the possibility of two – term tenure of 8 years, for a performing Vice Chancellor, no one should enjoy the privilege.

To have succeeded to establish Business School in Lagos (with the invaluable support of the then Chancellor Chief E.O. Shonekan and Chief Chris Eze (of former UAC and John Holt fame respectively) was not a mean achievement for a “cash – hungry” university. The Council had unanimously agreed that Professor Onah needed to be renewed to see the School take root and grow.

But widely acknowledge institutional progress under Prof. Onah notwithstanding, an uncalled-for Visitation Panel that was ill – timed, improperly constituted (with the Chairman and 90% of its five – man membership coming from one zone of Enugu State) was foisted on the productive and competent Administration by Col Sule Ahman (1996 – 98) as Military Governor and ESUT Visitor – at the instance of the then Commissioner of Education who was a dis-satisfied Senior Lecturer in ESUT. Col Ahman who saw how biased the Report of the Panel was, put a lid on it and left Enugu. The hawks however mounted pressure on Ahman's successor Navy Capt. Agbaje who succumbed to their pressure by removing the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and Bursar all of who exited ESUT on 25th February, 1999 when Professor J.O. Onah's second term of four years had one more year to go and the Registrar who had served the University registrarily for over 18 years had two more years to retire normally.

While Professor Onah returned to the University of Nigeria as Professor of Marketing, the Registrar promptly changed horses and joined the academic domain with unspeakable

gratitude to the hawks who either as a group or as individuals, got nothing good out of their most immature role.

After the exit of Professor Julius Onuorah Onah's Administration on the 25th of February 1999, the following Academic Leaders took turns in continuing to inspire, steer and shape ESUT in its growth and development, as indicated in each case:

- (i) Professor T.C. Nwodo as a short time acting Vice Chancellor.
- (ii) Professor M.O.C. Anikpo, as a short time acting Vice Chancellor
- (iii) Professor Sam C. Chukwu as Vice Chancellor
- (iv) Professor Joseph Ikechukwu Chidobem as Vice Chancellor in whose tenure, ESUT moved to its present location of Ebeano City in 2006.
- (v) Professor Cyprian O. Onyeji as Vice Chancellor in whose tenure ESUT conducted its first five year Strategic Plan ("That We Become Greater") under the Chairmanship of the late Professor Fred O. Ede.
- (vi) Professor Luke Anike as Vice Chancellor
- (vii) Professor Charles Eze as acting Vice Chancellor who handed over to the incumbent Vice Chancellor Professor Aloysius – Michaels Okolie.

13. CONCLUSION

ESUT, the proud retainer and proponent of ASUTECH IDENTITY as established by the founding fathers of the University, namely;

- (i) Address – PMB 1660, Enugu Nigeria
- (ii) Motto – Technology for Service
- (iii) Logo
- (iv) Philosophy
- (v) Vision
- (vi) Mission and
- (vii) Objectives

has evolved from July 30, 1980, through formal processes and procedures (from a two faculty – based university with 276 students and a 7 – member Senate and in a temporary location to what the university has become today – a full grown complex organs action with over 18,000 students in 12 faculties, 75 academic departments and 150 professors in the context of evidently globalised leadership.

Thank you for having been a wonderful audience.